

Our flight wasn't listed on the departure board, which we took as a sign that we arrived too early ...

Page 16



Li believes he can do anything – something that began while slaving over a slave learning to cook.

Page 9



Architects will always be interested in building great objects, while city building is the job of a planner.

Page 10



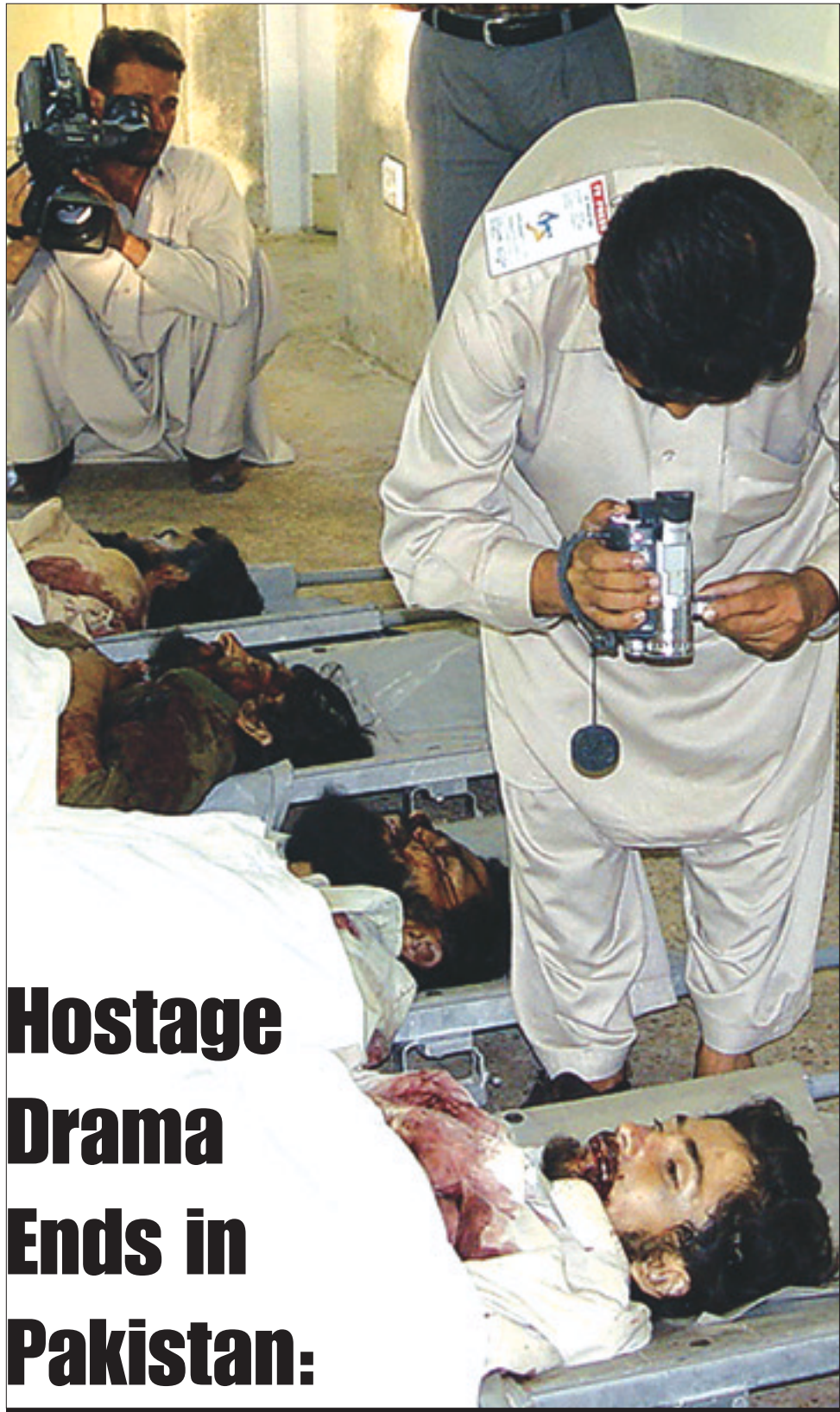
BEIJING TODAY

FRIDAY OCTOBER 15 2004

NO. 176

CN11-0120

HTTP://BJTODAY.YNET.COM



Hostage Drama Ends in Pakistan: 1 Dead, 1 Rescued

Local media take video footage of the bodies of kidnappers who were killed during an operation to rescue two Chinese hostages in Pakistan. One of the kidnap victims, Wang Peng, was killed and the other, Wang Ende was rescued in the operation launched by Pakistani army comman-

dos yesterday in a remote border region near the Afghanistan border. Security officials said Wang Ende had been taken to Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, where he was reported to be in good condition. (See Page 7 for detailed report)

Photo by Imaginechina

Native Son Delivers

Chinese player Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets (right) fights for possession with Sacramento Kings' Lu Wei, Yao's national teammate, during the first half of their first-ever NBA pre-season game in Shanghai last night. Yao Ming posted 14 points and 7 rebounds in the Rockets' 88-86 victory over the Kings in the first of the two matchups of the 2004 China games. The second game is on Sunday in Beijing at 11:30 am.

(See Page 5 – Yao Ming Brings NBA Back Home)

Photo by Photocom



A Crown for a Beauty Queen

Finalists in the 44th Miss International Beauty Pageant will gather at Beijing Workers' Stadium tomorrow afternoon for the crowning of the competition winner.

(See Page 8 – International Beauties Gather in Beijing)

Photo by Jia Ting



Local Football Team Penalized over Match Withdrawal

By Dong Nan

The Chinese Football Association (CFA) yesterday announced the penalty for Beijing Hyundai's withdrawal from a match against Shenyang Jinde on October 2 in protest at a controversial call by referee Zhou Weixin.

The CFA awarded Shenyang Jinde a 3-0 victory in the aborted match; docked the Beijing side three points from its total score from league play this season, fined Beijing Guoan Foot-

ball Club (owner of Beijing Hyundai) 300,000 yuan, and banned Yang Zuwu, general manager of Beijing Hyundai, from league matches for six months.

Meanwhile, the CFA also admitted that the penalty Zhou Weixin gave Beijing Hyundai in the 80th minute of the match, which triggered the Beijing team's withdrawal, was wrong. Zhou has been suspended from umpiring league matches for eight weeks. However the CFA said

Zhou had not deliberately favored the Shenyang team.

Yang Zuwu subsequently held a meeting with club officials late last night, following which a statement was released calling the decision by the CFA unfair and unacceptable. The officials said they would appeal to the principal committee of the CFA and hoped the Chinese League Match Committee would hold a meeting to discuss the issue. They also applied for a postponement of Beijing Hyundai's match against Qingdao tomorrow.

Beijing Today last week reported Beijing Hyundai's withdrawal from the match and subsequent threat to pull out of the CFA if umpire Zhou Weixin's decision was not overturned.

(See page 6 for further details and comment.)

On the Trail of Peking Man

By Zhou Ying

Zhoukoudian, a small village 50 kilometers south-west of Beijing, made headlines internationally in the 1920s as the site of the discovery of a well-preserved fossilized humanoid skull that became known as Peking Man. Today it is once again attracting attention as an international team of specialists prepare to resume the search for archaeological treasure.

With a roar of diesel engines, the first large scale excavation of the Zhoukoudian Peking Man Site kicked off Saturday morning, conducted jointly by archaeological teams from China and France.

The cooperative project involving EDF Group (Electricité de France), the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Zhoukoudian Peking Man Museum, Beijing Geotechnical Institute, and the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR), will run for five weeks.

"Within the five weeks, we plan to dig nine bores on the west hillside of Longgu (Dragon Bone) Mountain, Dong Wei, an expert from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, told Beijing Today Monday, "The depth of the bores ranges from 15 to 30 meters, with a diameter of less than 10 centimeters."

Dong said that earlier studies had detected two abnormal belts under the west hillside of Longgu Mountain. One of them is assumed to be a huge limestone cave, which may contain traces of Peking Man. Some archaeologists believe that this suspected cave may even connect with the well-known upper cave.

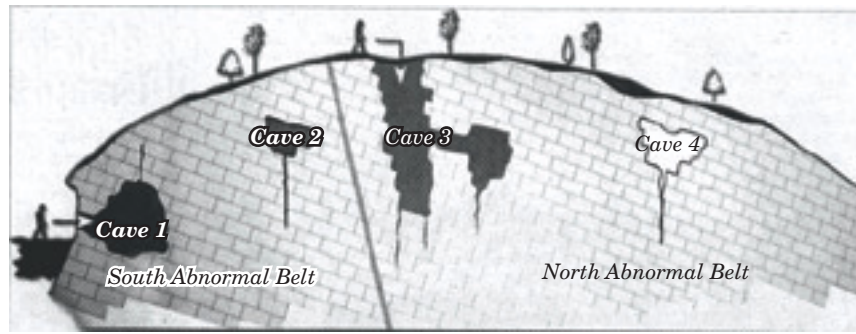
Dong said that if sampling this time can confirm what the two previous underground imaging projects had suggested, specifically that there were some as yet undiscovered cultural remains at Zhoukoudian, excavation work would resume at this "holy shrine" of archaeology.

Ten-year preparation

Paul Blais, a French geological engineer with EDF Group, told Beijing Today Monday afternoon that they had conducted electromagnetic physical detection studies in 1996 and 2003 before the excavation task this time started.

Sino-France Ethnology Foundation, Chinese Academy of Sciences and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) signed a contract in March 1995, aiming to renovate, protect, and conserve the world heritage.

One year later in 1996, three French experts in geology and physics, together with Chinese experts, carried out a month-long investigation of the Peking Man site, detecting four possible cave sites, among which one was empty and the rest were believed to contain some sediments.



Section view of the Peking Man site

"We divide these caves into the southern and northern districts, and it is quite possible that some new fossils will be found in the latter one," Blais said.

According to Blais, the team carried out tests applying three different kinds of technology, "We came to the same conclusion using each of the three methods. Considering the importance of the find, we decided to conduct a further investigation," he said.

The team returned to the site to conduct a second series of tests over a 20-day period in 2003, which produced similar results to the first study.

Dong Wei described the results as exciting, and said that other experts believed they justified further research. "With the permission of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, our work has moved into the next phase since Saturday morning," he said.

A difficult task

The project site is a five-minute walk from Zhoukoudian Peking Man Museum. In a wooden box on the ground was laid five pieces of drilling specimens, 10 centimeters wide and 20 centimeters long. As of Wednesday, workers from the Beijing Geotechnical Institute had drilled two bore holes, each 15 meters deep.

"Time is limited, because we have to work before it gets dark in order to guarantee quality," Gao Wei, one of the drillers told Beijing Today.

According to Gao, more than 30 workers spent almost two days carrying the instruments up the mountain. Because there is no electric power available, the machinery is powered with diesel engines.

"In addition, we have to pipe water from the foot of the mountain to prevent the drilling rig from overheating. It is a difficult area to drill in," Gao said.

Despite the difficulties, Tong Haowen, an expert from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, maintained that there was a good chance of finding new traces of Peking Man. "The Zhoukoudian site has not been explored on such a large scale since 1980, so we are really confident that we can meet with success," Tong added.

"The place that we are digging now is the west hillside of Longgu mountain, close to the Zhoukoudian site on the east side of the hill. Therefore it is quite possible that new fos-

sils will be found," Tong said.

Risk of damage?

According to Li Shuicheng, a professor from the department of archaeology of Beijing University, the traditional tools used in the field by archaeologists are small shovels and hoes, which will do little harm to any buried cultural relics.

Dong Wei admitted that drilling in this way did have the potential to damage underground relics, but argued, "what we have dug out is treasure, therefore we should continue our work." Meanwhile, Tong Haowen explained that as soon as there was any hint of hitting a fossil, "we would immediately stop digging and continue in another spot."

In order to guarantee the quality of the work, four geological experts from France are assisting with the drilling. They will stay on the site for two weeks.

The techniques used in the earlier studies, including ground penetrating radar mapping, have been used extensively by EDF Group in France to check for underground faults before constructing dams or hydropower stations.

Speaking of the new technology, Blais said he was honored to be able to make a contribution to such an important archaeological work. "Using this method, EDF Group has cooperated with many foreign countries in the field archeology, such as the exploration of a pyramid of an Egyptian Queen," he added.

Li Shuicheng told Beijing Today Wednesday afternoon that although the geologists had detected an anomaly inside the mountain, nobody could guarantee that fossils would be found there. He pointed out that the studies conducted in 1995 and 2003 were not 100 percent reliable, because the subterranean structure was too complex and the figures might not be totally accurate, "Therefore, it is still too early to be optimistic," he cautioned.

However the experts from France are the best in their field, he continued, adding that both they and the Chinese experts would do their utmost to avoid damaging the relics, "What the result will be, we'll just have to wait and see," he said.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: JIAN RONG

EDITOR: HOU MINGXIN

DESIGNER: LI SHI

Putin Kicks off China Visit

President Hu Jintao and visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin began talks in the Great Hall of the People Thursday afternoon, during which the two heads of state exchanged views on bilateral relations and international and regional issues of common concern, a Chinese Foreign Ministry source said.

The Russian president arrived at Beijing Capital Airport earlier in the day, beginning a three-day state visit to China. During his stay in Beijing, the two countries will sign a joint communique and a series of important cooperation documents.

Putin's visit is an important part of the celebrations of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations, and Putin and Hu will attend a series of commemorative activities in Beijing.

Putin will also visit the historical city of Xi'an in northwest China's Shanxi Province.

This is Putin's third visit to China, and the first of his second presidential term.

(Xinhua)



Russian President Vladimir Putin arrives at Beijing Capital Airport Thursday morning, kicking off a three-day state visit to China.

Photo by Photocome

Independent Study Declares Teflon Safe

By Sun Yongjian

An investigation into the possible toxic effects of using Teflon cookware by the General Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (GAQSIQ) has given non-stick pans the all clear.

The results, released Wednesday, say the administration tested 28 different Teflon-coated pans from 18 different manufacturers. No traces of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a potentially toxic chemical used to produce Teflon, was found during the testing.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced in June that US-based manufacturer DuPont had failed for more than 20 years to report potential health risks caused by a key ingredient in the manufacture of the non-stick coating.

Since then, Chinese media has widely reported that non-stick cookware made with Teflon could cause cancer, causing sales of such items to plummet and be pulled from store shelves around the country.

DuPont China argued at a media conference on July 20 that

there were misunderstandings in the reports, as the so-called cancer-causing synthetic compound was completely removed during the process of baking the coating at high temperatures.

The Chinese quality control authority then said it would launch an investigation into the safety of Teflon, with results to be issued in September.

"The results were reviewed by an independent expert panel organized by the administration, including academicians from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The panel unanimously agreed

that the results are reliable," a spokesman for the GAQSIQ told *Beijing Today* yesterday.

"DuPont is very pleased to learn the results of this testing. This is consistent with our findings and the findings of similar scientific tests by other independent research institutes internationally. More importantly, this will help restore Chinese consumer confidence in non-stick cookware," said Thomas Powell, President of DuPont Greater China. "DuPont Teflon non-stick coatings are safe for cookware applications."

Insurers Allowed to Issue Subordinated Bonds

By Cao Hao

A regulation issued Monday by the China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC) allows qualified insurance companies to replenish their capital base by issuing subordinated bonds.

The move follows a precedent set by the China Banking Regulatory Commission, which allowed Chinese banks to do so last year.

Insurers are allowed to issue subordinated bonds with maturities no shorter than five years, and the bonds rank behind all issuer liabilities and only before preferred and common stocks in terms of claims on issuer assets.

Subordinated bonds are distinguished from other bonds by their characteristic of non-guaranteed repayment. Debtors of subordinated bonds are required to repay the principal and interest only if their solvency adequate ratio exceeds 100 percent after repaying the principal and interest of the subordinated bonds. When the debtor cannot pay the interest and repay the principal and interest on time, the debt holder is not entitled to appeal to the court to execute bankruptcy liquidation of the debtor.

A spokesman for the CIRC said that there are increasingly serious contradictions between the capital needs of insurance companies and the limited financing channels available to them in recent years. At present, the channel to replenish capital is limited. Only the three largest Chinese insurance companies launched initial public offerings during in recent years, thereby raising their capital strength. Others generally improve their capital strength through increasing existing shareholders' equity or ushering in foreign investors. However, all channels face the problems of lengthy time and high cost. Difficulty in fund raising has become a major problem hindering the development of China's insurance industry.

China Joins Eurasian Crime Task Force

By Chu Meng

In a bid to combat international crime and increasingly rampant terrorism, China has joined with Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to establish a joint counter money laundering and terrorism task force. Li Ruogu, deputy governor of the People's Bank of China attended the launch of the task force in Moscow Wednesday.

The group's first summit has been scheduled for December. Representatives from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Euro-

pean Union will be invited to attend as observers.

"The summit will be of great importance to find new opportunities and perspectives for cooperation and maintaining security and stability. With the trend toward economic and financial globalization, mutual dependence between countries is increasing, while the struggle against corruption and terrorism cannot be constrained by borders," Li Ruogu said to Xinhua News Agency Monday.

Zhao Junjie, associate professor and special consultant from the Chinese Academy

of Social Science's Institute of European Studies, told *Beijing Today* Monday, "The region covering East Europe and Central Asia has always been a focus for terrorist attacks. The establishment of the task force marks the beginning of a new stage of substantial cooperation."

According to Zhao, in the past, criminals could rarely be brought to justice in the country they committed their crimes once they escaped to a neighboring country, due to a lack of such cross-border legal cooperation.

State-owned Banks Finish Last in Competitiveness Ranking

By Wei Lixin

The four biggest state-owned commercial banks ranked last in competitiveness according to a survey on commercial banks in Beijing by the People's Bank of China, *Beijing Star Daily* reported Tuesday.

The survey, which looked at the operating data to the end of 2003 of all 37 banks currently operating in Beijing, focused on five aspects: environmental situation, operating status, business exploitation ability, innovation ability and management. After a comprehensive analysis, the foreign-

funded commercial banks were found to be much more competitive than their Chinese-funded counterparts.

The Beijing Branch of Standard Chartered Bank topped the rating, followed by Credit Lyonnais and HSBC. Of the Chinese-funded banks, China Merchants Bank scored the highest ranking - number 13 on the list, and was also the only Chinese funded bank to score above the overall average. The big four commercial banks, Bank of China, China Construction Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and China Agricultural

Bank were rated the least competitive, finishing last on the list.

According to the agreement China signed on its accession to the WTO, foreign-funded banks will be allowed to conduct renminbi business from the end of 2004 in Beijing.

The report described defective governance structure as the fundamental cause for the lack of competitiveness of the state-owned banks. Insufficient talent reserve, poor innovation ability and ambiguous market positioning has also contributed to the problem.

New Regulation to Further Centralize Medicine Tendering

By Annie Wei

The Ministry of Health, National Development and Reform Commission and State Food and Drugs Administration and three other state departments have released a regulation on further centralizing tendering by medical institutions, according to a report in Sunday's *Beijing Youth Daily*.

The regulation requires county and higher level governments, state-owned enterprises, partially state-owned

enterprises and non-profit medical institutions to participate in centralized tendering by medical institutions'.

The regulation extends the scope of tendering to cover 80 percent of medicines; the most-widely used and the most expensive medicines; as well as the area of e-business.

The regulation has been issued in response to certain issues surrounding the current centralizing of medicine tendering, such as purchasing

contracts failing to clarify the quantity of medicines; contracts not being strictly implemented, cases where medical institutions do not pay in time and the medicine manufacturer does not supply medicines in accordance with the contract; the agent being over-charged as a result of too complex tendering procedures; and medical institutions not decreasing medicine retail price in accordance with state requirements.

Philippines Offer Visa-on-arrival to Chinese Tourists

By Chu Meng

Chinese tourists who want to visit the Philippines will be granted visa-on-arrival privileges whether traveling individually or in groups by the end of this month, Philippines Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano announced in Manila Sunday.

"The Bureau of Immigration and Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines has agreed to extend the privilege to Chinese tourists in order to boost their numbers," Durano said, "the validity of the visa will be extended from seven to fourteen days. A survey has showed that the average time

Chinese tourists spend in the Philippines is around 11 days."

The Philippines government will also cancel the 1 million peso guarantee bond imposed on local tourism companies which bring Chinese tourists into the country, but the operators will still have to present a letter of guarantee to the government taking full responsibility for the tourists.

Figures from the Philippine Tourism Bureau show that the number of Chinese tourists to the Philippines increased in the first eight months this year to over 26,000 from 20,000 in the same period last year.

Circular Issued on Non-performing Loans

By Qiu Jiaoning

The People's Bank of China and China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) jointly announced a circular on investigation of responsibility for non-performing loans in state-owned commercial banks, China Central Television (CCTV) reported Sunday.

The circular comes in response to a resolution passed by a Ministry of Finance working group for pilot reform of state-owned commercial banks.

The circular requires state-owned commercial banks to intensify investigation of their internal workings and establish a responsibility system. Violations in the course of loan issuance, management and disposal, especially involving wrong strategic decisions and heavy losses caused by loopholes in the internal con-

trol system, should be severely punished.

Regarding non-performing loan, the circular stipulates that it is necessary to ascertain where the responsibility lies for issuance and to take appropriate measures in accordance with specific conditions. Those suspected of breaking the law should be handed over to the relevant judicial organs.

Regarding hand-over procedures, state-owned commercial banks and asset management corporations are urged to take appropriate measures to minimize non-performing assets. Asset management corporations should take appropriate steps to preserve the assets, report violations to relevant banks and banking regulatory departments promptly, and give active cooperation in any investigations.

Nominations Announced for Top 10 Cities

By Qiu Jiaoning

The organizing committee of the 2004 CCTV China City Serial Activities has announced 20 cities nominated for the Top 10 Economically Invigorated Cities list, Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday.

The cities nominated are Changzhou, Chengdu, Dalian, Dongwan, Harbin, Hangzhou, Hohot, Kunming, Ningbo, Qingdao, Shenyang, Shenzhen, Suzhou, Weihai, Wenzhou, Wuhan, Wuxi, Xiamen, Xuzhou and Zhongshan. Municipalities such as Beijing, Shanghai and

Guangzhou are not eligible for the award. The 20 short-listed cities were selected from an initial list of 280.

In order to ensure an objective and scientific approach, the committee has considered a wide range of opinions from scholars, economists, social scientists and environmental experts. The appraisal standards connect basic data with expert opinions through questionnaires and television surveys.

The top 10 will be announced at a special ceremony on November 6.

Driving License Applicants Face Tightened Procedure

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Beijing government has toughened the application procedure for driving licences *Beijing Evening News* reported Sunday.

According to an order released by the Ministry of Public Security, would-be drivers must now wait until their applications have been accepted

by the Beijing Traffic and Vehicle Department before they can make an appointment to sit for their driving test.

The test should be taken between 10 and 30 days of their receiving notification of acceptance, which means that the entire procedure will now take around two months.

Price Hike on Detergent Additized Fuel

By Qiu Jiaoning

Gasoline with a detergent additive (detergent additized fuel) is now available in Beijing. The retail price of this "clean" fuel has been set at 0.06 yuan per liter higher than ordinary fuel of the same grade.

In an announcement publishing the price standard on Sunday, Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform said that purchase of the new fuel should be strictly on a voluntary basis.

Under the new rules, all petrol stations must ensure priority supply of common gasoline and diesel of the same grade. The price of common fuel and detergent additized fuel must be marked clearly at the point of sale and on receipts.

The announcement said that as common gasoline and diesel already meet environmental protection standards set by the state and Beijing government, consumers have the right to make their own choice.

Traffic Restrictions to Apply During Beijing Marathon

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Beijing Traffic Management Bureau has announced there will traffic restrictions along the west of Chang'an Avenue and elsewhere from 8:25 am Sunday for the Beijing International Marathon.

The marathon will begin at 8:30, starting from Tian'anmen Square and finishing at the China Olympic Sports Center. The closure will affect Chang'an Avenue west of Tian'anmen Square, Fuxingmen Bridge, the north-bound auxiliary lane of the West Second Ring Road (from 8:45), Yuetanbei-

jie, Sanlihe Lu, Fucheng Lu (from 8:50), Landianchang Nanlu, Banjing Lu, the north-bound auxiliary lane of the West Fourth Ring Road (from 9:20), the east-bound auxiliary lane of the North Fourth Ring Road, Wanquanhe Lu, Haidian Nanlu (from 9:35), Zhichun Lu, Xueyuan Lu (from 9:50), Xueqing Lu, the south-bound auxiliary lane of the Badaling Expressway (from 10:05), Datun Lu (from 10:10), Beichen Xijie, Beichen Dongjie, and the west-bound auxiliary lane of the North Fourth Ring Road (from 10:30).



GoMe Appliance founder Huang Guangyu, 35, is the Chinese mainland's richest man.

EuromoneyChina Names Nation's Richest

By Sun Yongjian

On Tuesday, the China branch of EuromoneyChina, a UK-based company, released its 2004 China Rich List, a ranking of the wealthiest 100 individuals in the Chinese mainland, at the Mission Hills golf course in Shenzhen.

Huang Guangyu, 35, the founder of Gome Appliances, China largest electronics retailer, was named the country's new richest person with a personal fortune of \$1.3 billion.

Similarly youthful Timothy Chen Tianqiao, 31, rode his 60 percent stake in online gaming company Shanda Networking, China's largest Nasdaq-listed company by market value, into the number two spot. Third went to 61-year-old Larry Rong Zhijian, who has watched the value of his 18 percent ownership of Hong Kong investment vehicle Citic Pacific turn into big bucks.

"The three greatest fortunes amassed in the world in recent years include the late retail tycoon Sam Walton of Wal-mart, Bill Gates the IT genius and investment guru Warren Buffett. That would make Huang the Sam Walton of China, Chen the Bill Gates of China and Rong the Warren Buffett of China," Rupert Hoogewers, president of EuromoneyChina told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

Among the 32 new names on this year's list, the highest position went to Li Jinyuan, who has amassed a fortune worth \$720 million by operating a nine-million-strong worldwide direct sales network for healthcare products.

Three-time Olympic gold medallist and present-day sports clothing label head Li Ning earned his first appearance on the list with a personal wealth of \$150 million.

"Growing wealth brings with it growing power. Ten years ago, the richest people in China had a reputation of earning their fortunes through tricks and scams, but now people have learned the secret to their success resides in their pragmatic and ambitious spirit," Hoogewers said in Chinese.

For the second year running, the new list features no women, and the average age of entrants is 50 years old.

Construction Bank Chases Foreign Cash

By Annie Wei

Bringing in foreign investment has become a major focus for China Construction Bank as the financial institution gears up to launch its initial public offering, the *Beijing News* reported on Sunday.

A source from a Hong Kong investment bank was quoted by the newspaper as saying that China Construction Bank has sent share proposals to potential international investors such as Citigroup, JP Morgan Chase, UBS Investment Bank and some Japanese banks.

Wang Dayong, vice director of the expert committee of the National Development Bank said that introducing foreign investment was crucial for guaranteeing the bank's management and more as it approaches its IPO.

Analysts expect China Construction Bank to offer 10 to 20 percent of its shares, worth up to \$8 billion, to one or multiple investors, though the bank's 2005 IPO may only bring in \$5 billion to \$10 billion. In September, powerful domestic companies State Grid Corp and Baosteel each paid 3 billion yuan for 1.5 percent stakes in the bank.

Among the bank's qualities likely to draw interest from foreign banks are its thousands of branches and millions of customers across the country, particularly in the context of the rapid growth of domestic demand for mortgages, credit cards and other profitable bank services.

Chirac Leads French Business Blitz

By Sun Yongjian

The historic state visit of French President Jacques Chirac to China has not only led to closer political ties between the two nations but also given rise to lucrative business deals for French enterprises eager to strengthen their positions in the booming domestic market.

Airbus scores

During Chirac's visit, two Chinese air carriers signed contracts to purchase 26 Airbus planes, the European aircraft maker announced on October 9.

Air China bought six Airbus planes, scheduled to be delivered in 2005, to fly its Chengdu-Lhasa route and other lines linking high-altitude airports in Sichuan Province and Tibet. China Eastern Airlines purchased 20 A330-300 aircraft as part of its drive to expand and update its fleet.

Airbus also announced it had plans to increase its procurement from China to \$120 million by 2010, and had already signed contracts to reach a goal of \$60 million in procurement from Chinese suppliers by 2007.

Five Chinese companies are already involved in producing parts for Airbus aircraft, namely Chengdu Aircraft Corp, Shenyang Aircraft Corp, Xi'an Aircraft Co., Hong Yuan Aviation Forging and Casting and Guizhou Aviation Industrial Group.

Alstom steams under Shanghai

French industrial giant Alstom rode the drive to update Shanghai's transportation infrastructure by signing on Tuesday a huge 1.5 billion euro contract

to sell 128 subway trains for the city's expanding underground system to Shentong Subway Holding (Group) Co.

Last Sunday, Alstom also penned another big deal worth more than 1 billion euros to provide 60 high-speed trains and related engine technology for China's national railway system.

The company recently signed a deal to provide equipment to China's Dongfang Electric Corp for the second phase project of the Ling'ao nuclear power station in Guangdong Province.

Alcatel-TCL merger ready
During the president's visit, the merger of French communication company Alcatel and domestic telecom giant TCL, which had been in the works since this June, was signed into formal existence by Serge Tchuruk, Alcatel chairman and CEO and Li Dongsheng, TCL Group chairman and CEO.

TCL holds a majority 55 percent stake in the new merged company and Alcatel the remaining 45 percent share.

The deal should help Alcatel reverse its poor fortunes in the China market and more fully tap the profit potential of the massive domestic market for mobile phones, an article in the *Beijing Morning Post* on Wednesday speculated.

Bull in China shops

Already China's largest computer maker, Lenovo made a move to expand its market presence and line-up by signing a deal to sell products from French IT firm Bull Group.

Gervais Pellissier, president

of Bull Group, was quoted in a company press release as saying that through the collaboration, Bull would be able to expand its position in the Asia market. Currently, around 90 percent of the company's sales are in Europe, according to the press release.

Potent power deal

Anne Lauvergeon, president of French technology company Areva signed into reality 300 million euros-worth of orders to provide power-generating equipment and technology for hydropower stations in Huizhou, Guangdong Province.

At a press conference for that deal, Lauvergeon also revealed that Areva was ready to sell the newest generation of nuclear power plants to China.

Clean water cooperation

France-based Veolia Water signed a deal on Tuesday to acquire a 45 percent stake in domestic sewage treatment firm Beijing Water Group and appoint a French general manager to the resulting new joint venture.

The deal will result in the establishment of Lunan Water Company, China's first sewage treatment joint venture, to be run by the two companies for 20 years.

Fruit diplomacy

One member of Chirac's delegation was Frederic Gervoson, president and chairman of Andrew Group Corp, which makes and sells fruit products in China.

Gervoson came to the country to promote the company's Andros fruit sauces and other products and strengthen its foothold and reputation in the domestic market.



Canton Fair Kicks Off

The 96th Chinese Export Commodities Fair, also known as Canton Fair, opened in Guangzhou today. Some 13,000 domestic companies have applied to take part in the event, which will involved up to 300,000 exhibitions.

The Canton Fair has been divided between two exhibition sites. It is the world's second largest trade fair, trailing only Germany's Cebit Hannover.

Photos by Imaginechina

Chinese Companies Dumped, but Penalties Were too Stiff, Say US Authorities

By Annie Wei

The US International Trade Committee (ITC) on October 4 decided that the American Department of Commerce was right to tax three Chinese companies for dumping products in the US market, but found the government body went too far in penalizing the offending firms, the US-based *China Press* reported last Saturday.

The ruling resolved a long-running anti-dumping case that began in February 2000 when the department announced the launch of dumping investigations and surveys of Chinese tool-makers and exporters Shandong Huarong Group, Liaoning Machinery Import and Export Co., and Tianjin Machinery Import and Export Co.

Department delegates determined during a trip to Liaoning Machinery Import and Export Co. and Shangdong Huarong Group in spring 2001 that the companies had misleadingly described themselves in the survey, charged them with failing to cooperate and hiked their customs taxes to 47.88 percent.

The two Chinese companies responded by filing a suit with the ITC against the department on charges it lacked evidence to back the charges. The committee found that both companies had provided their sales records and other necessary documents during the investigations and demanded the commerce department reopen the case on September 13 this year.

On October 4, the ITC ruled

that hammers from Tianjin Machinery Import and Export Co. Ltd were sold at below-standard prices in the US, therefore upholding the commerce department's dumping charges, but also determined the department had broken the law in a further punishment in which it pulled all of the Chinese companies' products from US store shelves and liquidated them in 2002.

Li Jie of the US office of Tianjin Machinery Import and Export told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday that nearly all hammers on the US market were imported and that American companies were motivated to pursue dumping suits because they could receive government subsidies in confirmed cases.

Sinopec Signs 2008 Olympic Partnership Deal

By Annie Wei

China Petrochemical Corp (Sinopec) and the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) signed a partnership agreement in Beijing Monday.

The deal calls for Sinopec to provide funds, refined petroleum products, petrochemical products, lubricants and related services for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, the Beijing 2008 Paralympics, BOCOG, the Chinese Olympic Committee and the Chinese Olympic delegation to the 2006 Winter Games in Torino, Italy.

BOCOG launched the marketing plan for the 2008 Games on September 1, 2003 and has subsequently signed partnerships with the Bank of China, China Mobile, Volkswagen China, China Netcom and Air China.

Sinopec, one of the largest integrated petroleum and chemical companies in China, ranked 53rd on the 2003 edition of the Fortune Global 500 list. It has nearly 30,000 trademarked service stations across the country, with service networks in co-host cities of the 2008 Games such as Qingdao, Shanghai and Qinhuangdao.

Asia Hot Spot for Global Offshoring

By Chu Meng

Asian cities have emerged as many of the world's top offshoring destinations, according to the Global Offshoring Index released Monday by Jones Lang LaSalle, the world's leading real estate services and money management firm.

Asian cities ranked first in each of the three main factors of investment cost, human capital and market size.

Offshoring refers to the movement of corporate business overseas, sometimes also called outsourcing.

"First of all, for many organizations, investment costs such as labor, business, real estate, telecommunications and utilities are the primary drivers of business location decisions. In the ranking of the 10 cheapest cities for offshoring based solely on cost

alone, eight were Asian cities with three in China - Tianjin, Dalian and Suzhou," Craig Plumb, head of occupier research at Jones Lang LaSalle said.

In the firm's calculations of cost-driven investment factors, 75 percent weightage was attributed to cost, while remaining drivers of human capital, or labor, business environment, infrastructure, real estate and local market conditions were allocated weightages of five percent each.

The desire to take advantage of opportunities in the local marketplace was another major driver for offshoring, and the desire to adapt or apply a global product or service to local market characteristics could also play a role in guiding location decisions, the Jones Lang Lasalle report said.

Gree, Baosteel Pen Cooperation Plan

By Annie Wei

China's biggest air-conditioner manufacturer, Gree Electric Appliance of Zhuhai, Guangdong Province and Shanghai Baoshan Iron and Steel Co., China's largest steel and iron enterprise, signed a strategic cooperation agreement on Sunday morning, the Guangdong-based *Zhujiang Wanbao* newspaper said on Monday.

The agreement set out a plan for general cooperation in steel supplies, technology development, steel processing, logistics and corporation management between the two companies, the newspaper said.

Gree agreed to give priority to Baosteel's products

over similar steel products from other suppliers, while Baosteel promised to consider its new partner's needs in developing steel products. The agreement calls for both sides to cooperate in developing technology while respecting each other's intellectual property rights.

An unnamed expert was quoted by *Beijing Youth Daily* on Monday as saying that competition between different electric appliance companies had become more intense and steel supplies had become a major factor constraining the development of electric appliance firms. The expert added he expected similar strategic cooperation deals to become commonplace in the future.

Merck Pulls Vioxx from Market

By Annie Wei

Major international pharmaceutical maker Merck & Co. announced the voluntary worldwide withdrawal of its Vioxx (rofecoxib) product, an arthritis and acute pain medication, on September 30, according to the company's website.

Merck made the decision based on results of three years of clinical trials of Vioxx that showed some users had higher risks of dangerous cardiovascular events, such as heart attacks and strokes, the company statement said.

Chen Ruan Xingxian, senior director of public affairs and strategy at Merck (China) was quoted in the Sichuan-based *Chengdu Shangbao* newspaper on October 4 as saying that the although

Merck could have continued to market Vioxx after relabeling it, the company decided a voluntary withdrawal was a more responsible move.

The website statement said that sales of Vioxx had accounted for 10 percent of Merck's annual sales in recent years. More than two million people in China have used the medication since it was released on the domestic market in 2001.

Professor Dang Gengting, director of the department of orthopedics at the Third Hospital of Peking University said domestic doctors had prescribed Vioxx in small doses and not found any cases of it increasing risks of cardiovascular events in clinical use, the *Beijing News* reported last Friday.

Hong Kong, October 7 (Far Eastern Economic Review) – While market confidence is high in new Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's determination to nurture further economic reforms, he faces a daunting task.

Last financial year's remarkable 8.2 percent growth rate touched off optimistic predictions that an era of sustained high growth had arrived. But much of that impressive growth figure was due chiefly to a bountiful monsoon, say economists.

The rains boosted the agricultural sector, which accounts for 22 percent of India's gross domestic product and sustains 60 percent of its 1.1 billion people. Prosperity on the farms fueled demand in the industrial and service sectors.

This year is likely to be tougher. Inflation has risen sharply on rising global oil prices, which have also pushed up the cost of doing business. On top of that, this year's monsoon has been weak, with poor rainfall during the main planting month of July.

Last month, the Asian Development Bank cut its estimate of India's growth rate this financial year from 7.4 percent to 6.5 percent. It was the latest in a series of revised forecasts.

Rising inflation complicates Singh's task. It has nudged up through the year, and on September 11 it reached 7.9 percent after touching a three-and-a-half year high of 8.3 percent in August. Ideally, the Reserve Bank of India would raise interest rates to rein in inflation, which most economists expect to rise further before falling next year.

But the government has come out against a quick rate hike, with Singh commenting recently that lifting rates was not the "proper answer" to combating rising inflation. The government fears

India: A Fine Balance

higher rates would smother any recovery in investment and hurt the holders of its bonds.

"The first step is to reduce liquidity, and that should dampen inflation," says Mukarram Bhagat, a managing partner at ASK Raymond James in Mumbai. He believes some liquidity will be sucked in by rising bank credit, before a central-bank move on rates perhaps in April.

Analyst's Take:

India's inflation has been controlled around 6 percent in recent years, with recent records being attributed to the hikes in crude oil prices. India goes to great expense to import oil and petroleum products, which it relies on heavily. During 2002 and last year, India spent over \$21.8 billion on importing oil. As such, any fluctuations in oil prices will have a tremendous negative bearing on India's economy, as it will further deteriorate the trade def-

icit and balance of international payments.

Moreover, the industry and price index will be adversely affected. The extremely high expense in terms of having to import oil is the real reason behind the nation's foreign exchange crisis in 1991.

For sure, fluctuations in the international commodity markets and financial markets also attribute to India's inflation problem. And a truck driver strike that occurred this year was another factor, as people were then afraid of another mass strike and their confidence became affected. Also, the market is weary of any new government coming into power.

I do not have an optimistic outlook about India's economic growth rate this year – it has been a tough task to achieve the 8 percent figure that has been seen in recent years.

It will be hard for the government to lower the financial deficit because it is expanding its welfare spending to battle poverty, and the country's deposit and investment ratios are awfully low. Also, it will be impossible for India to offset its deficit from income earned from foreign investment, as its foreign direct investment last year was a paltry \$4 billion, while that of China's was \$57 billion. Meanwhile, India's tariffs remain high, which will affect its bilateral and multilateral trade links.

Another factor that will drag India's growth down is the agriculture sector, which will realize a decrease in yield. What's more, transport and electricity supply problems will greatly hamper growth. Its growth won't go above 7 percent, I think.

– Zhao Jianjun, head of the Financial Education Department at Hunan Radio and TV University

(Wei Lixin)

GM to Slash 12,000 Jobs in Europe

Brussels, October 12 (USA Today) – General Motors plans to announce a massive restructuring that will eliminate as many as 12,000 jobs in Europe in a move to stem the five-year flow of red ink from its auto operations in the region.

GM's plants in Germany, where its Opel division is based, will bear the brunt of the job cuts, which could total almost 20 percent of its European workforce, according to an executive familiar with the plans, who requested anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the topic. GM hopes to reduce its costs by 500 million euros annually through the payroll reductions.



Photo by Imaginechina

Two Economists Win Nobel Prize

New York, October 12 (AP) – An American and a Norwegian won the 2004 Nobel Memorial Prize in economic sciences Monday for research on how government policies affect economies around the world and why supply-side shocks like high oil prices can dampen business cycles.

The work by Norwegian Finn E. Kydland and Edward C. Prescott, a professor at Arizona State University at Tempe, has led to reforms at many of the world's central banks, the citation said. Their research also has given academics better tools for understanding what causes economies to boom or go into recession, it added.

The two professors have collaborated on work since the 1970s. They will share an award worth 10 million Swedish kronor, or about \$1.3 million.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, which oversees the prize, said the professors' research showed that governments and central banks could be more effective if they adopted consistent, long-term rules and followed them. It was published in the late 1970s when many Western economies were shifting from one policy to another.

"The research shifted the practical discussion of economic policy away from isolated policy measures (and) towards the institutions of policymaking, a shift that has largely influenced the reforms of central banks and the design of monetary policy in many countries over the last decade," the academy said.

Analyst's Take:

The creation of the "Real Business Cycle Theory" was the major contribution to the world by these two economists.

It is quite different from Keynesism, which was commonly recognized by academics last century. It says that the imperfections of the market mechanism itself cause every market crisis, while the professors' theory argues that the market mechanism itself is perfect. It is the external impact that causes market changes. For instance, scientific and technological progress can causes an increase in investment, which then creates economic prosperity.

Some other external factors, such as the Internet, the September 11 terrorist attacks, the petrol crisis that took place in the 1970's, and so on, also have changed the market greatly. Thus, the government doesn't need to intervene in the market. What the government should do is create circumstances that are suitable for the market to develop itself.

Australia is a typical example of the theory in practice. The country's currency policy is made in line with the theory and the economy is able to remain prosperous.

– Liang Xiaomin, a professor at Tsinghua University

(Sun Yongjian)

EU Sues Germany Over Volkswagen Law

Brussels, October 13 (Reuters) – The European Commission dragged Germany to court Wednesday over a law that shields car-making icon Volkswagen AG from hostile takeovers, the culmination of a long battle to break down barriers to foreign investment.

The lawsuit is the parting shot of pro-market Dutch Internal Market Commissioner Frits Bolkestein at Berlin's protective industrial system, championed by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

The EU executive has repeatedly asked Germany to scrap a 1960 law that gives VW's home state of Lower Saxony effective control of the firm through a minority stake saying it violates Euro-

pean laws on the freedom of investment.

The challenge will not change the fate of VW overnight since the European Court of Justice, the EU's highest court, takes an average of two years to issue a verdict in such cases.

But if the court does throw out the law, a company that began life under Adolf Hitler in 1938 to make the "people's car" and rose to fame with the beloved Beetle in the 1970s could become a take-over target.

The state government came out fighting after the Commission decision, insisting that the law was permissible under EU rules. The German Justice Ministry also defended the law, while VW declined to comment.

Prime Minister Must Unveil His Agenda

Australia, October 11 (Financial Review) – The twinkle in Business Council of Australia boss Hugh Morgan's eyes yesterday, in the wake of John Howard's stunning election victory, could have lit the entire eastern seaboard. And with big business expectations so high, Howard faces some big challenges that belie his electoral success.

Now is the time for Howard to prove himself, and he has no excuse for failure in terms of the immediate economy and his parliamentary control. Expectations on his ability to deliver on this chance are so high that any disappointment combined with an economy that falters will quickly remove the gloss.

As big business salivates at the prospect of "its" government delivering its wish list of reforms, Howard must, of course, also manage expectations by saying "No" as much as he does "Yes" within a policy framework to boost the overall economy rather than sectional interests.

Local Report:

Howard's conservative coalition government secured a stunning fourth election victory Saturday night, which boosted the Australian financial markets. Both the stock market and foreign exchange market have been inspired by the result.

Communications giant Telstra and media companies were the immediate beneficiaries of the coalition's triumph as investors recognized that control of the Senate would allow the federal government to sell the rest of Telstra and relax cross-media ownership laws. The coalition then announced its plan to sell its remaining 50.1 percent share of Telstra, turning it into a fully privatized company, which will enable its ambitions expansion and quicken its development in Australia and New Zealand.

Howard's triumph excited the money market while the gloomy employment prospects in the United States dragged down the greenback. The Australian dollars strengthened against the greenback from 1:0.728 to 1:0.7367 shortly after the election, and its climb is expected to continue in the short term.

– Private Economy News, October 12

(Wei Lixin)

Microsoft Unveils Bold New Assault on Home TV, Music Market

Los Angeles, October 12 (AFP) - US software behemoth Microsoft unveiled a new technological assault that will bring music, movies and television into consumers' living rooms via their home computers.

Microsoft chief Bill Gates unveiled the expanded Windows XP Media Center 2005 operating system, a group of software and linked hardware products that can turn a computer into home entertainment center on which people can download music, movies, watch television or listen to radio.

The US firm, which has long battled to win a secure foothold to allow it to dominate the digital entertainment and TV market, hopes the updated system will make Microsoft the leading force in the burgeoning sector.

If it takes off, the software giant hopes the system will help boost sales of its ubiquitous Windows operating systems personal computers.

FDA Approves Use of Chip in Patients

Washington, October 13 (AP) – Medical milestone or privacy invasion? A tiny computer chip approved Wednesday for implantation in a patient's arm can speed vital information about a patient's medical history to doctors and hospitals. But critics warn that it could open new ways to imperil the confidentiality of medical records.

The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday that Applied Digital Solutions from Florida could market the VeriChip, an implantable computer chip about the size of a grain of rice, for medical purposes.

With the pinch of a syringe, the microchip is inserted under the skin in a procedure that takes less than 20 minutes and leaves no stitches. Silently and invisibly, the dormant chip stores a code that releases patient-specific information when a scanner passes over it, just like the scanners that cashiers use in supermarkets.

The VeriChip itself contains no medical records, just codes that can be scanned, and revealed, in a doctor's office or hospital. With that code, the health providers can unlock that portion of a secure database that holds that person's medical information, including allergies and prior treatment. The electronic database, not the chip, would be updated with each medical visit.

The microchips have already been implanted in 1 million pets. But the chip's possible dual use for tracking people's movements – as well as speeding delivery of their medical information to emergency rooms – has raised alarm.

Sino-US Agreement Means More Pilots for UPS

Louisville, October 13 (AP) – UPS has announced plans to hire at least 100 pilots during the next year, saying most of them will be based in Louisville.

Additional flight crews are needed because the company has new airplanes and is expecting to do more international flying, company spokesman Mark Giuffre said Tuesday.

An agreement between the United States and China to expand aviation rights is the reason UPS announced the hirings, he said. The US Department of Transportation has not permanently awarded those rights to UPS, but it has tentatively approved 12 new weekly flights.

The pilots will be added through next year. About 40 percent of UPS's almost 2,500 pilots live in the Louisville area. The company has its main package-sorting hub at Louisville International Airport. New pilots also will be based in California and Miami, Giuffre said.

More Women Taking CFO Roles

New York, October 13 (USA Today) – Women may be hitting the glass ceiling when it comes to getting into the chief executive officer's suite, but they are shattering it on the way into the CFO's office.

While a small percentage of the nation's biggest corporations have female CEOs, a rising and significant portion are promoting women into their top financial post: chief financial officer.

Some 8.7 percent of companies in the Standard & Poor's 500, including household names such as Yahoo, Pepsi and Home Depot, now have female CFOs, according to a USA Today analysis of data from Hoover's, a service that collects information on companies. That is well above the 3.5 percent that have female chief operating officers and 1.8 percent with female CEOs.

While the number of female CEOs has hardly budged, in two years, the number of large companies with a female CFO has grown by more than 20 percent, according to a study by Catalyst, which researches issues concerning women in business.



Yao Ming backs up against the King's Brad Miller. Yao had 14 points in Thursday's Shanghai game.

Photo by Photocome

By Liu Zhaoxi

China may have caught basketball fever in the days of Michael Jordan, but the national addiction has only spread with the resounding success of native son Yao Ming in the US' National Basketball Association.

Just how popular the sport has become was readily evident on September 12, when tickets for a preseason NBA match up to be held in Beijing this Sunday went on sale. By 11 pm the night before, more than 2,000 people had lined up outside the local ticketing office of the China Performing Arts Agency. A 'sold out' sign was posted on the office's window at 3 am, meaning all 4,000

NBA to make this happen," Jay Liu from the public relations department of the NBA's Beijing office told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday. Liu explained that Beijing and Shanghai had been chosen because they were both major international metropolises with nationwide impact and key platforms for the basketball league to develop the Chinese market.

A statement on the NBA's website says the games were intended "to build on the NBA's relationship with the Chinese Basketball Association, and to give Yao Ming [a Shanghai native] a chance to play in front of his home fans."

It will reportedly be only the third time for Yao to return to China since he moved to the US to play professional

Yao Ming Brings NBA Back Home

tickets went in a matter of less than four hours, the *Beijing Evening News* reported.

The highly sought after tickets were for an NBA 2004-2005 preseason match up between the Sacramento Kings and the Houston Rockets, the team of Chinese superstar center Yao Ming.

The NBA and domestic authorities announced in February that two preseason games, the first of their kind in this country, would line up those two teams in Shanghai on October 14 and in Beijing on October 17.

"It took five years for the

ball two years ago.

And Beijing is ready for him. Outside Beijing Capital Stadium, where the Sunday game will be held, stands a huge billboard featuring four star players, including a towering Yao. All the equipment needed for the game, such as floorboards and VIP chairs, have been shipped to the site to be set up under the direction of NBA staff, Sina.com reported Tuesday.

Liu told *Beijing Today* that it was possible the NBA would continue to hold preseason games in China involving other teams in coming years.

Annan Inspires, Warns Tsinghua Students

By Cheng Zheng

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan tried to spur some of the most promising young people in this country into action during a speech delivered at Tsinghua University on Monday.

Annan told a captive audience of university students that he hoped they would consider not only heading to poorer areas of China to provide help, but also to other countries, "because those countries may eagerly need your skills".

The Secretary General also emphasized China's crucial role in the global battle against HIV and AIDS. He said if China made great strides in preventing the spread of the deadly disease, it would be to the benefit of the whole world, but if the country failed in that task, the consequences would be too ghastly to contemplate.

Following his 20 minute speech, Annan opened the floor to students' questions. In response to a question from Zhu Dan, a student at Tsinghua's school of journalism and communication, regarding his plans after leaving his UN leadership post, Annan said he wanted to be a farmer and return to Africa with his family.



UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

Photo by Photocome

Bush-Kerry Debates Draw Local Democrats

By Annie Wei

On October 1, over 150 Americans gathered in the top floor of the Goose and Duck Pub near Chaoyang Park, not to celebrate National Day, but to hold a party around a live broadcast of the first debate between US President George W. Bush and his Democratic opponent in this year's election, John Kerry.

The party was a pretty partisan affair, as it was organized by the American Democrats Beijing Organization, or Amdems for short.

Over drinks and chatter, the crowd watched the televised proceedings and even broke into laughter at certain points.

Adam Lyonf, a 25-year-old American man new to China heard about the party through friends. "I thought it interesting, to see motivated expatriates get together to watch this important debate. And I was surprised to find a group of Americans here so passionate about this election," Lyonf told *Beijing Today*.

When the dust cleared, an Amdems member thanked everyone for coming and then opened things up for louder talking, mingling and partying.

The active group managed to get 174 Americans, over half college students living in Haidian District, to register to vote last month.

Amdems held a second event at the same site on October 9 for the second presidential debate. But they deliberately kept the gathering quiet to avoid getting into trouble with local authorities.

Suspect Sesame Oil Found in City Markets

By Liu Zhaoxi

Feng Lanhua, a local engineer, says she learned a serious lesson about the dangers of shopping in free markets after reading media reports about the discovery of fake sesame oil in the Beijing market. "Do not go to free markets to buy sesame oil, go to large grocery stores," Feng told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

About a month ago, local officials starting receiving a flood of reports from consumers about sesame oil sold in some free markets in Changping that had a strange flavor and caused dizziness and sickness. The oil's unusually low price of less than 10 yuan for 500 grams raised more eyebrows, and led government officials to launch a thorough investigation into the origins, production and sales network of the questionable oil.

Investigators found several hidden processing centers where workers were taking unlabeled salad oil and turning it into "sesame oil" by adding flavoring essence and some cottonseed oil for appropriately dark color, CCTV reported on Sunday.

Tang Yunhua, an official from the Beijing Municipal Industry and Commerce Association told the television network that such conduct was in clear violation of the law, as national standards only allowed one ingredient in the process of sesame oil - sesame.

Further investigations of sesame oil sold at free markets and grocery stores all over the city led to the closure of other illegal processing sites. But generally, news was good, as the *Beijing Evening News* said on Monday that tests of oil samples taken from vendors around Beijing showed that 95 percent of the sesame oil on the local market was up to qualifications.

"Generally speaking, people can rest assured about the quality of sesame oil on the Beijing market," Ji Wei, an official from the association who took part in the Changping investigation, told *Beijing Today*. However, Ji did remind people that it was safest to choose sesame oil made by reputed brands and not just seek the lowest prices.

He said that based on the raw material costs of sesame for making oil, good quality sesame oil should sell for at least 10 yuan per 500 grams.

Benz Blamed as Long Running Suit Settled

By Dong Nan

It took 68 months, but on October 7, Shenzhen resident Cai Zhuangqin became the first consumer from the Chinese mainland to win a lawsuit against German carmaker Mercedes-Benz. That day, the Guangdong Dongguan Court ruled that defects in Cai's Mercedes car were directly responsible for the 1999 death of his son, Cai Yanpeng, and ordered the company to pay 280,000 yuan to cover Cai's financial losses and emotional damage.

"I have been waiting for this sentence since February 1999. Through I'm not satisfied with the amount of money, I am glad to see the court judged Mercedes-Benz was responsible," Cai told the *Shenzhen Daily* newspaper after the ruling.

On January 31, 1999, Cai was in a traffic accident in his Mercedes S320 sedan that sent his car off the edge of an elevated highway. His son, sitting in the passenger seat, was killed when the car hit the ground.

Later, Cai learned that the car's air bags had not inflated and the seat belt supposed to protect his son was faulty. Armed with evidence that defects in the luxury sedan were responsible for his son's death, he began to negotiate with Mercedes-Benz for compensation in February, but the two sides failed to reach an agreement.

The bereaved father filed his suit against the German carmaker in January 2000, but Mercedes' insistence that the indictment be sent to its corporate headquarters through diplomatic channels slowed the progress of the case.

Proceedings sped up after June 22, when China's Supreme Court issued a regulation that judicial documents in cases involving foreign organizations should be sent to their Chinese representative departments. Once Cai's indictment was sent to Mercedes' Chinese representative, things got rolling and the case went to court on September 2003. The opening of the hearings was postponed twice until the case was finally settled last Sunday.

"I stuck with this difficult case not for the money, but to honor the spirit of my son. Though I am not satisfied with the amount of the compensation, I think he should be happy," Cai was quoted as saying by *Shenzhen Daily*.



Photo by Wang Xueren

By Chu Meng / Zhou Ying

Lights in blue, white and red, the colors of the French flag, shone across Zhengyang Gate in the southern end of Tian'anmen Square on Saturday night to honor the opening of the 2004 Sino-French Cultural Year, part of a two-year year exchange event between the two countries.

"We installed 24 computer screens under the wall of the gate and turned on the lights from Saturday night to Wednesday night," Liu Qin, a member of the Beijing Gehua Cultural Development Group, organizer of the Franco-friendly light show, told *Beijing Today* on Thursday.

On Monday, after thick smog and low visibility postponed their heroics, the internationally renowned aerobatics team of the French Air Force, the Patrouille de France, took off and pulled breathtaking maneuvers in the skies of Beijing in honor of the start of the 10-month French Culture Year and French President Jacques Chirac's state visit to China.

The team had been scheduled to fly two shows last Thursday and Sunday but was blocked by abysmal air quality.

The French pilots started Monday with a 7:40 am pass over the Simatai section of Great Wall in Miyun County. "It is a tradition for us to make flights across a country's famous places of interests and take pictures. Our photographer told me excitingly

Lights, Jets Mark Start of French Culture Year



Xinhua Photo

Pitch Walk-off Brings Allegations of Bribery to the Fore

By Dong Nan

During the October 2 match between Beijing Hyundai team and hosts Shenyang Jinde, players from the away side headed for the showers early in protest over what they said was a controversial call by the referee.

It was a first for China's professional football league. The game came to a halt in the 80th minute with the score tied at 1-1, after referee Zhou Weixin awarded a penalty to the host side following a melee in their penalty box during which both Beijing's Zhan Shuai and Jinde's Zhang Yang fell to the ground.

As soon as Zhou blew his whistle, he was surrounded by irate Beijing players including Yang Pu. He made an obscene gesture to Zhou.

"Firstly, one of our foreign players was irrationally sent out of the game, and then he awarded a penalty to the hosts. That was the last straw, we couldn't stand for it," Yang Zuwu, Beijing Hyundai general manager, was quoted as saying.

He then alleged that corruption was rife in the league, saying: "I hope the China Football Association (CFA) can invite judicial departments to investigate the increasing number of match-fixing incidents, the corrupt refereeing and the betting on games, to create a more fair environment." Yang even claimed that the owner of the club was thinking about walking away



Players from the Beijing Hyundai football team argue with the referee

from the sport.

This incident has created widespread discussion.

Yang Zuwu, Beijing Hyundai general manager: **The CFA has to stamp out corruption, otherwise professional football in China will be destroyed.**

All video records showed that the penalty awarded by Zhou Weixin was absolutely wrong.

Of course every referee makes mistakes, but I believe Zhou did not make a mistake here. It was a problem of morality more than technique. At the time, I was very angry and the whole team and I could not accept the decision. I think any football team's leader who possesses a spirit of fair play and has a conscience could not have accepted

the decision.

The result of the match was not important and I don't care about what kinds of penalties our team faces. What I wanted to do was make sure the CFA understood that if they don't sort out the corruption issue, China's professional football league will be destroyed.

Lang Xiaonong, Chinese League Match Committee director:

Regardless of the circumstances, Beijing Hyundai's behavior is unforgivable.

As a professional team, a basic requirement is to complete a match. If there are any problems during the match, such as a disagreement over a penalty or with a referee, it can be looked at after the game. I got in contact with Yang Zuwu

shortly after the incident and he was very agitated. I tried to persuade him to continue the match, but he refused.

I understand the Beijing Hyundai team has made plenty of contributions to Chinese football and nobody likes to see such an embarrassing situation, but their actions were unforgivable in any case.

Zhang Peng, Shenyang Jinde president: **It is disrespectful to the fans.**

I think Beijing Hyundai overstepped the mark this time. The referee also gave them a penalty during the match, but we just accepted it. This is serious business and if Beijing Hyundai thought there was a problem with the refereeing, they should have played out the match and then reported their grievances to the CFA, which could look at them officially. The walk-off is disrespectful to the league and the fans, especially those who were in attendance.

I think the CFA should punish the club severely. It is possible and understandable that referees make mistakes, but if all teams acted in the same way to protest decisions then there would be no league.

Lin Lefeng, Dalian Shide football club president: **For the good of Chinese football, the referee should be punished.**

The visiting club is a mature and an experienced outfit, so they must have had their reasons. Their actions must not just have stemmed from that match – such feelings would have been simmering for a long time.

From 2000, Dalian Shide has suffered at the hands of referees. And we cannot keep silent either. For example Zhou Weixin, the referee who was in control of the game in question, has also treated Dalian Shide unfairly on many occasions. We believe that those mistakes were more than a lack of ability, and were deliberate.

How can referees such as Zhou, who are always making dubious calls, still be in charge of important matches? I think there are three reasons: Maybe they have been bribed by clubs to make certain calls, maybe they are gambling on the matches, or maybe they have the blessing of some high-ranking CFA officials.

All that said, I don't agree with Beijing's walk-off and it should not be emulated by other clubs. But I think for the good of Chinese professional football, the referee, Zhou Weixin, should be punished seriously.

Guo Yunlong, a Beijing football fan: **The biggest culprit is the CFA, which continues to accept questionable refereeing.**

I think the culprit is the CFA who uses referees who take bribes and unfairly deliberate over matches. Often mistakes can be seen as deliberate attempts to swing a game. However, as I understand it, whenever fans appeal to the CFA, they receive lukewarm replies. I think the CFA's officials have to use their authority to allow Chinese football to develop.

Many think that Beijing Hyundai should have finished the match and then appealed to the CFA about the matter. But I think that too would have been useless. There is a lot going on behind the scenes of Chinese football and CFA officials are incapable of acting. To this extent I would back Beijing Hyundai's actions, as maybe this was the only way to get something done.

Liang Jun, a Shaanxi football fan: **The biggest losers in the match were the fans and Chinese football.**

Of course there is much inequity in Chinese football, people are fully aware of that and hate it. And Beijing Hyundai took advantage of those feelings. They say they are fighting for their interests, but it was not an heroic way to go about things.

In addition, the CFA is to blame for its inability to act and deal with the issues. They don't really have any teeth and maybe that explains why China's national football team never really does any good. There were no winners from the disputed match, least of all the fans and football in China.

New Fuel Fans Debate among Car Owners

By Chu Meng

Since National Day, gas stations in Heilongjiang Province, in the nation's northeast, have stopped selling the gas most favored by motorists. As part of a government initiative, the traditional gas is being replaced by a new kind of composite fuel called ethanol-gas, provincial government representative Yang Shuqing, who is in charge of promoting the product, told *Beijing Today* on Monday.

Ethanol-gas is a compound comprising industrial ethanol and traditional gas. Different products, designed for various purposes, can be produced depending on the proportions of the two original materials. Ethanol, a liquid alcohol fuel with vapor heavier than air, can be produced from agricultural products such as corn, grain and sugar cane.

After two years of experimentation in five cities in Henan and Jilin provinces, in central and northeastern China, the State Council, the National Development and Reform Commission, and six other governmental departments decided Heilongjiang would be the first province to embrace ethanol-gas.

All gas stations in the province were directed to cease offering traditional gas from October 1 and to start selling ethanol-gas, which was created and is being delivered exclusively by Sinopec Heilongjiang. Sinopec – a State-run oil giant – is selling the new product for the same price as its traditional gas, but it is likely that the price will fluctuate in the future.

According to Yang, the fuel showed economical and environmental benefits during the research period. There is reduced pollution and its use will cut the nation's reliance on imported petroleum resources.

But the move has attracted much attention among motorists – not only in Heilongjiang but nationwide. Here are some of the points of view that were put to *Beijing Today*.

Song Yongqiang, a driver with Beijing Yinjian Taxi: **Many ques-**



Workers paint an ethanol-gas storage tank

tions need to be answered before all vehicles should be made to use the product.

I was happy about the news as soon as I heard about it, as gas is as precious to me as blood. And as you know, prices at gas stations are rising everyday, which makes it hard to earn a living. If ethanol-gas can really work as they say it can, then hopefully the average person won't have to spend as much on running their car and everyone would love that.

But there are still questions. Is it as responsive as traditional gas? Will it shorten the lifespan of my car and its engine? Although alcohol is cheaper than petroleum, will costs continue to increase because of the more complex production procedures? Do we have to do anything different before using the new fuel, such as changing some of the

motor's cylinders? What were the shortcomings during the experiments? I would want those questions clearly answered before accepting its use, if I were driving in that province.

Yang Yunsheng, director-general of Sinopec Heilongjiang's Ethanol-gas Contribution and Administration Office: **It is better for vehicles than traditional gas.**

Ethanol-gas is a new and environmentally friendly automobile fuel that is a mix of 90 percent traditional gas and 10 percent ethanol, which produces 30 percent less emissions compared to traditional gas. Of course the procedure required some new technology as we couldn't simply add the two together. The product will not harm vehicles, but it will enhance the performance of engines and prolong the life of

their parts.

Second, because of ethanol's chemical characteristics, it will provide more power, which is something noticeable when starting the car. And in terms of consumption, nothing changes, it is the same as traditional gas. As a diver myself, I feel my car's performance is improved with the new product. There is nothing to worry about.

Yang Shuqing, an official from the Heilongjiang government's Ethanol-gas Promotions Office: **It is good for the country's energy strategy and has received much support from the central government.**

It runs parallel to the national strategy of regulating oil energy consumption, to ease our dependence on imported oil. The State Council and the National Development and Reform Commission provided us with great economic support, such as covering the research expenses, constructing a new facility for the research and giving us a production allowance, which all show the importance attached to the product. By the end of 2005, the four provinces of Hubei, Shandong, Hebei and Jiangsu will be investigated and further experiments will be carried out.

Ethanol-gas is not a completely new energy. Countries such as America and Brazil and many in Europe have used it for more than 10 years. In America, ethanol has a 15 percent market share and achieves good outcomes. Ethanol comes from processing corn and many other crops that contain complex carbohydrates. Our province harvests enormous amounts of crops every year, but certain amounts of them cannot be consumed or sold. Therefore, storage and sales became headaches for the government. In other words, promoting the use of ethanol-gas will promote the corn processing industry. It not only makes full use of the resources available, but saves natural energy. In order to ensure the same price in the market, the central government is providing sufficient allowances to ethanol

processing factories to make up the high production costs.

Li Dadong, a petrochemist at the Research Institute of Petroleum Processing: **Oil will continue to be the dominant force.**

During this century, oil will continue to be the main energy source. Substitute ones such as the non-polluting energies of ethanol, carbinol, hydrogen and ecology compound fuels won't completely replace it. Oil will remain dominant as dynamic fuels, particularly for motor vehicles, need to provide sufficient combustion and have no negative impacts on metal, plastic or rubber parts, in addition to being stable while being transported and stored. Also, almost all engines have been designed to use oil.

However, according to my research, if gas contains 10 percent of ethanol, the engine will consume 5 percent more of fuel. Moreover, ethanol-gas is not as powerful as regular gas. That is to say, it will be harder to start a car's engine. In terms of chemistry, ethanol and traditional gas cannot be mixed together directly. Therefore, complex techniques are required to keep the product stable, which is part of the reason America and Brazil have not wildly adopted it.

As we all know, one engine design is particularly suitable for one kind of fuel, and current engines can only use gas. If people want to change to another kind of fuel, a series of mechanical alterations will be needed. However, there has not yet been systematic and scientific research into a new engine that would be suitable for ethanol-gas.

Liu Yang, a car owner in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang: **Traditional gas is much better.**

I have a Jetta myself and I don't like the new gas very much. Firstly, my car always seems to lack power and it consumes more gas than before. Secondly, I changed my oil system and cleaned my gas tank because the people at the gas station told me the ethanol would erode them. That cost me more than 500 yuan and that's expensive.



1



2



3



4

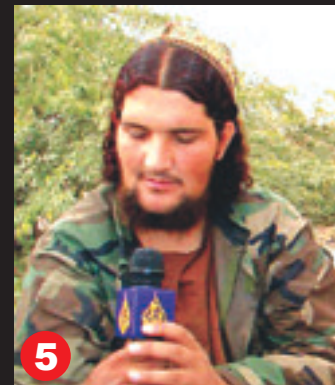
1 Wang Peng, the deceased
Photocome.com

2 A Pakistani tribesman stands in front of a compound which was used to hide Chinese hostages by Al-Qaeda-linked militants in Chagmalai yesterday
AFP PHOTO/STR

3 Wang Ende was released by army commandos
Photo by Imagechina

4 An official (left) from Wang Peng's hometown visited his father on Tuesday
Photo by Wang Xuanzhe

5 Abdullah Mehsud, a Pakistani tribal leader
REUTERS/Kamran Wazir



5

Chinese Hostage Dies During Military Raid in Pakistan

By Liu Zhaoxi

Wang Peng, a Chinese engineer who was being held hostage in Pakistan has been killed during a raid by local military forces. His colleague, Wang Ende, who had also been kidnapped, was rescued during the operation, Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday, citing the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. All five of the kidnappers were killed.

The two men, Wang Ende and Wang Peng, were kidnapped by the gunmen at the weekend near Jandala in a tribal region bordering Afghanistan, where security forces have been battling al-Qaeda-linked militants since March.

The men had been working on the Gomal Zam Dam project and a canal in the region for the China National Water Resources and Hydropower Engineering Group.

The deceased

Pakistani military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan has identified the deceased as Wang Peng, who worked as a surveyor on the project. Wang Ende was unharmed, Reuters said yesterday.

In an earlier media report, the spokesman was quoted as saying: "The security forces conducted an operation and both of the Chinese engineers have been freed. One of the Chinese is absolutely safe and the other one has been hurt."

According to Reuters, he told a local TV station that the military had heard shots being fired in the compound where the kidnappers and hostages were. Fearing for the safety of the Chinese, they stormed the building.

Several rounds of talks had been held with the kidnappers before the military took action. The Pakistani government had pledged the safe release of the hostages, local newspaper *Dawn* — an English language newspaper — said Wednesday.

The kidnappers and Chinese were in an isolated mud-brick compound in South Waziristan, which had been surrounded by tribesmen and security forces.

Death threats but deadline extended

"The kidnappers have explosives strapped to their bodies and have grenades in their hands. They say they will blow themselves up along with their four hostages if security forces or the tribe makes any attempt to snatch the captives," a Pakistani official told *Dawn* following Saturday's kidnapping. The two Pakistani escorts of the Chinese had also been abducted, but they were unharmed during yesterday's military strike.

Abdullah Mehsud, the leader of the militants, accepted responsibility for the kidnappings, the newspaper said. According to Reuters, Mehsud was a former inmate at the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, and he was leading tribesmen as they fought alongside al-Qaeda members in the region. It is not known what has happened to

Mehsud since yesterday's raid.

At the start of the week a Pakistani journalist, who said he spoke to Mehsud on Monday morning, told Reuters that there was a deadline of noon (3 pm Monday, Beijing time) for the kidnappers to join Mehsud unharmed at a different location. If the demands were not met, one of the Chinese was to be killed. Then later that day, a senior Pakistani security official said the deadline had been extended by four hours.

Pakistani Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao told reporters in Karachi the kidnappers were demanding that the government free two Uzbek militants who had been detained in the tribal region, Reuters said.

On Tuesday, China National Water Resources and Hydropower Engineering Group staff members told *Beijing Today* that the company and the Chinese and Pakistani governments were still attempting to free the men. The company then sent two delegations to Islamabad to assist with the situation, according to the *Shanghai Morning Post*.

Later Tuesday, a tribal delegation held talks with Mehsud. He told the delegation he would not negotiate the release of the Chinese unless his men were allowed to leave their besieged base with the engineers.

Hours after the rejection, new efforts were launched when negotiators sent two close relatives of Mehsud to attempt to persuade him to free the men, Radio Australia reported.

The area where the men were kidnapped is said to be a semi-autonomous tribal region, which has long been notorious for kidnappings and is also now a refuge for militants with al-Qaeda ties, including Chechens, Uzbeks and Arabs, who are protected by local tribesmen, Reuters said.

The Chinese government had been urging Pakistan to do all it could to resolve the issue.

China has been a long-time ally of Pakistan, supplying it with hundreds of millions of dollars of development finance and other aid, Reuters said.

The kidnapped Chinese

Little is known about the two men. Wang Ende, 49, went to Pakistan in August. He has been working for the corporation for over three decades. His deceased colleague, 32-year-old Wang Peng, began working for the corporation after graduating from college in 1996, and was recently married, according to Xinhua. Wang Ende's wife had written a letter to the kidnappers, calling on them to release her husband and the other men, *Beijing Star Daily* reported mid-week.

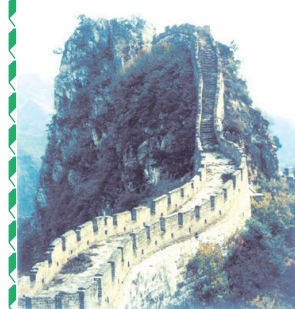
Many Chinese people have been commenting about the issue on websites since news of the abductions broke. Some of them expressed shock and anger. "I never felt terrorism was so close to me," one person wrote. But most typed a few lines expressing hope for the safe return of the men.

旅游 · 度假 · 休闲

TEL: 68997124 68311626

pick up your Walnuts on the Xiangshuihu Great Wall

Great Wall, Ancient Mountain, Cleat Spring, Flying Waterfall. join us to the Xiangshuihu Great Wall, you will see all the above scenery. Xiangshuihu locates at the west part of Mutianyu Huairou. Besides the lots interesting place, it also has a folurish orchard with apple, date, pear, walnut, chestnut, grape, edible wild herbs. From August 25 to October, Xiangshuihu will have a special activity "Visit Great Wall, pick up Fruits". Call now: 010-61631085 61632539 61631588 Take bus: No.916at Dongzhimen Web site: www.Xiangshuihu.com



友谊宾馆康乐部

The Friendship Hotel Recreation Center

The outdoor swimming pool of the Friendship Hotel is one of the highest standard swimming pools of Beijing. The swimming pool is equipped with 7-meter diving platforms and delicate diving boards. The strict sterilization measures and the circulation system ensure the water is always clean. **Morning opening 6:30-8:30 RMB30/day, RMB400/month, and RMB1000/quarter.** Tel: 68499696



友谊宾馆室外泳池是北京市国际高标准泳池,配有7米的跳台和小巧的跳板,严格的消毒措施和水循环系统,使其永远具有碧蓝的水质。早场:6:00-8:30, 30元/天,400元/月,1000元/季度。咨询电话:68499696

彼岸潜水俱乐部 欢迎您

The Other Side (Bi'an) Diving Club

The club provides the sports fans with professional service besides fun and coolness in the hot summer. Adopting sophisticated foreign training textbooks and equipment, the club provides professional training such as the **swimming and diving courses and organizes diving tours home and abroad.** With the internationally accepted training method, it takes the trainee only 20 hours to get the CMAS diving certificate which is acknowledged all over the world. The trainees have free and flexible choice as to the training time. The swimming course consists of elementary level, improving level, advanced level, honored guest class and the class paid by the hour. **Swimming and diving summer camp. Sign up now!** Time for the opening of the courses: the early April. The trainee can begin the course on signing up at any time. The summer courses begin on 1 June. Course time: 9:00-20:00, 7 days a week. Time for signing up: 9:00-21:00, 7 days a week. Place for signing up: The Professional Club of the Friendship Hotel (No. 3, Baishijiao Road, Haidian District, 200 meters south of Renmin University). Tel: 68713790 68713791 68498613 Telex: 68713790

Take buses no. 320, 804, 302 or Yuntong buses no. 104, 105, 205, 106 and get off at Shuang'an Shangchang stop. Or take bus no. 811 or Te 6 and get off at Renming Daxue stop.



北京彼岸潜水俱乐部是一家专门为体育爱好者提供专业服务的运动休闲俱乐部。在这里您不仅可以感受到一个清凉舒适的夏季,还可以获得一项专业证书。我们的服务宗旨:我们自然地将潜水与休闲相结合,引进了先进的教材和设备,开设了潜水课程和潜水旅行,同时全年组织到全国各地和世界各潜水点进行潜水旅行。用真正国际化的教学方法使学员经过二十小时的培训可以获得国际通用的CMAS潜水证书并根据自己的空闲时间选择上课时间。课程和收费分为初级、提高、高级、贵宾、计酬等。

暑期开办游泳潜水夏令营,即日起报名。

开课时间:4月初开班,暑假期间,6月1日开班,全天训练。

上课时间:每日9:00-20:00(周六、日本休息) 报名电话:每日9:00-21:00(周末不休)

报名地点:友谊宾馆专家俱乐部大厅(海淀区白石桥路3号,人民大学向南200米)

报名电话:68713790 68713791 68498613 传真:68713790

乘车路线:运通(104,105,205,106),320路,804路,302路,双安商场下车,811,将6路人民大学下车



汇中颐园——距城区最近的具有中国古典式建筑风格的商务会所,位于东三环南端,毗邻京瑞饭店、潘家园古玩城,距离CBD驱车10分钟的路程,它不仅拥有古色典雅的餐厅,而且涵盖了六个风格各异、功能不同的四合院。

餐厅“养生堂”诚邀五星级饭店厨师加盟,主理养生餐、新派粤菜。餐厅可同时容纳三百余人就餐。东西两侧十四间包房风格各异,演出效果极佳的中央舞台巨大的京剧脸谱烘托出整个大厅浓郁的传统文氛围。与中央电视台合作为十一频道《戏迷俱乐部》栏目提供了录制场地。

汲雅斋为书画院,由汇中颐园与中国书画家联谊会合办,其既可以举行各种展览和笔会,也可以供爱好者低价收藏名人字画及明清家具真品。

鼎盛阁,其装饰以中国古文化为底蕴,有记载中医学基础的《黄帝内经》,也有《聊斋志异》中的《小翠》,是商务会议及宴请的良好场所。

茗茶居为茶园,其包房有皇家式、农家式、日式等不同风格。古玩、玉器、灶台、腊肉、点缀其间。置身于此,品茗论道,其乐无穷。

颐生堂汇中颐园与中国中医研究院合作的养生健康咨询中心,有中医保健,药浴等服务项目,同时为会员建立健康卡。

汇中颐园——都市中的世外桃源。全体员工真诚期待您的光临!

电话(TEL):67320035,67322002-209 传真(FAX):67320017



International Beauties Gather in Beijing

Miss International to be crowned tomorrow



1. Who will be this year's Miss International?
2. A resident of the Gubeikou Rest Home gives a warm welcome to Miss Columbia, Jemmy Paola Vargas.
3. Contestants release balloons to make a wish.
4. Miss Israel, Lior Keren, learns a new dance at Gubeikou village.
5. The finalists are all donating items from their home countries for a charity auction to be held Saturday evening.
6. Miss Japan, Tamiko Kawahara (left) and Miss Israel, Lior Keren (center) at Wanke Xingyuan Community.

Photos by Jia Ting



By Sun Ming

Worker's Stadium will be transformed tomorrow afternoon as 58 contestants vie for the title of the 44th Miss International.

The 58 finalists from all over the world have been involved in a series of activities in Beijing this week. The Chinese capital is hosting the Miss International Beauty Pageant, which is being held outside the US or Japan for the first time in its 44 year history.

The delegates from 58 countries and regions flew from Tokyo to Beijing last Friday after undergoing a one-and-a-half week training course.

Since arriving in Beijing, the candidates have participated in more training courses and attended a series of activities organized by *Beijing Youth Daily*, the major organizer of the event.

"I'd heard of the Great Wall before. Now I've seen the real one! It's so nice," Miss Russia, Natalia Kolodeznikova, told *Beijing Today* when the finalists visited the Gubeikou section of the Great Wall on Sunday. The Gubeikou Great Wall in Miyun County, northeast of Beijing, has been listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Miss Israel, Lior Keren, told *Beijing Today*, "It's so exciting! This is the first time for me to visit China. My grandma was born in Harbin and spent her childhood in Beijing. She told me a lot about China, so I'm quite familiar with the country. There are still some old Chinese style chairs in my home."

While at the Great Wall, the contestants wrote descriptions of how they imagine Beijing will look in 2008. The descriptions were then buried by a tree. Yuan Lixin from *Beijing Youth Daily* told *Beijing Today* that they will be unearthed in 2008 and the finalist whose description is judged to be the most accurate will be invited back to Beijing.

On the top of the Gubeikou Great Wall, the candidates re-

leased colored balloons to make a wish. "I prayed for peace in the world," the blonde Miss USA, Amy Holbrook, told *Beijing Today*. The 19-year-old student from the University of Santiago said there is no more important thing for people than peace.

After leaving the Great Wall, the contestants visited a nearby rest home for the elderly. Miss India, Mihika Varma, performed an Indian dance for the residents.

On Tuesday, the 58 candidates visited communities in Beijing. At Wanke Xingyuan Community in the north of Beijing, more than three hundred local residents welcomed the beauties with a performance of *yangge* (folk dancing) and a tai-chi demonstration.

"It's so amazing," said Miss United Kindom Laura Shields, "Beijingers are so enthusiastic." The 22-year-old college student, whose major is chemical engineering told *Beijing Today* that she had not expected to see so many high-rise apartment buildings in Beijing.

On Wednesday, the contestants attended the Miss International Forum 2004, where they exchanged opinions on issues like world peace and social problems and discussed their impressions of China.

"Our schedule is so full these days," Miss China, Sun Yue, told *Beijing Today* Wednesday, "But this is a good thing for me, because I have no time to think about the contest. So I'm not very nervous." The 22-year-old Beijing native distinguished herself out of 40 competitors in the Chinese regional final for the 44th International Beauty Pageant on September 22.

During the global final tomorrow afternoon, the candidates will model their traditional national costumes, bikinis and evening wear in the lead up to the crowning of the new Miss International.

Ticket Hotline: 8408 5551, 800 810 1887

16 October, 2004 Beijing, Worker's Gymnasium The 44th Miss International Beauty Pageant You're welcome

Miss International
Beauty Pageant 2004
China • Beijing



Sponsor :  China International Culture Dispersion Center
 International Cultural Association of Japan
Organizer:  CITIC Media Group Co., Ltd
Special Partner:  Beijing Youth Daily

The Grand final of Miss International Beauty Pageant is planned to take place at Beijing Worker's Gymnasium at 15:30 pm on Saturday 16 of October 2004. The theme of this event is "Fantastic China, Fashionable Beijing". Misses from 58 countries and regions will be on stage to show their different beauty and wisdom and contend the championship of the Miss International Beauty Pageant on this most memorable and epoch making pageant.

Miss International Beauty Pageant is one of the top three leading beauty pageants in the world. It was born in USA in 1960 and has been held in Tokyo, Japan since 1972. From then on, Miss International has attained the status of a quasi-national event, garnering a reputation as the "Olympics of Beauty". The official organizer of Miss International Beauty Pageant, International Cultural Association of Japan has authorized China International Culture Dispersion Center as the sponsor and CITIC Media Group as the organizer for this event. CITIC Media Group will host the Grand final of Miss International Beauty Pageant 2004. It is the first time that this pageant enters China and the first international beauty pageant held in Beijing.

Internet Partner: Suhu.com

Counselor: Tianping Law Office

Reception Center: Beijing Tianping international Travel Agency

Appointed Hotel: Beijing Shangri-la Hotel

Television Rebroadcast: Dragon TV

Performance Partner: China Oriental song & Dance Ensemble

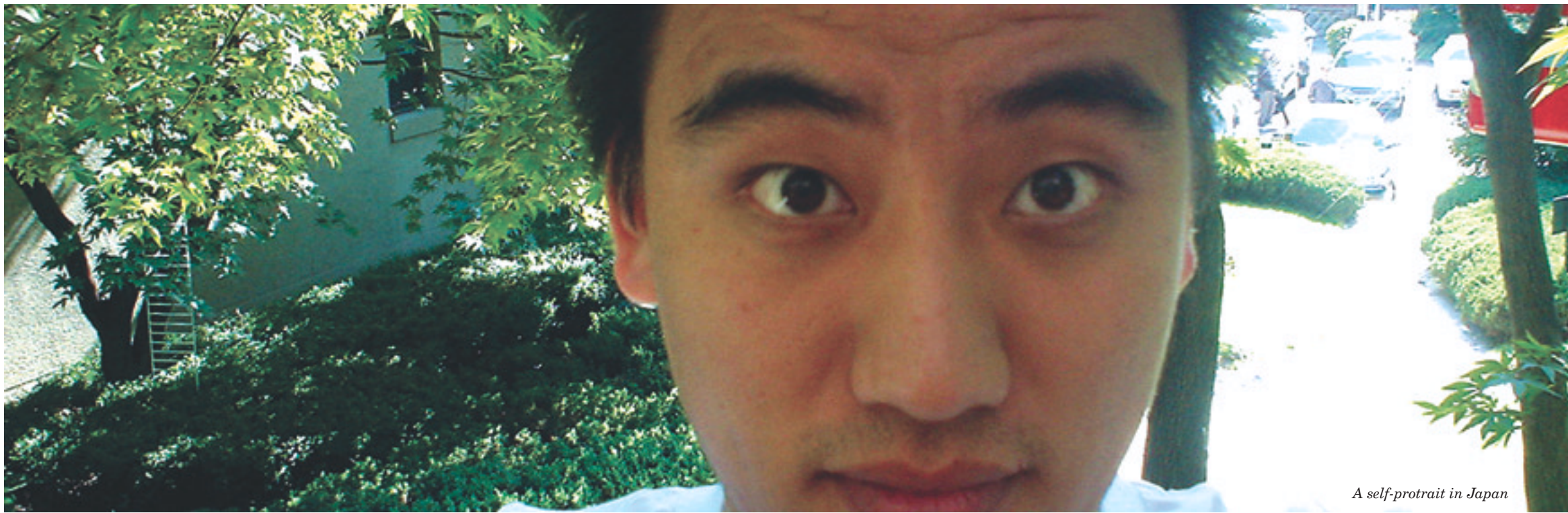
Booking Ticket Phone: 84085551

Free Phone: 8008101887

Yongle Ticket Service: www.228.com.cn

Ticket Price(RMB): 5600(VIP, including Charity Evening after the pageant), 2500(VIP), 1680, 1280, 880, 680, 480, 280, 180

Charity Evening Price (RMB): 2000



A self-portrait in Japan

By Zhang Yan

A man can see and do much in his life, which is something bilingual Li Zhenhua is attempting to achieve. The Beijing native has already carved out a background that includes being the part owner of a bar, organizing a string of art exhibitions and becoming the spokesman for a hip range of cameras. And the impressive list of accomplishments seems to grow after hearing that Li, who is now in his late 20s, got his start with it all after training as a chef.

Looking to the future

Li believes he can do anything – something that began while slaving over a stove to learn how to cook Western-style dishes at a vocational senior middle school. After graduating, he was immediately assigned to work at a restaurant in the newly opened Kempinski Hotel. And although working with food was his main task, learning English became Li's passion. He had picked up the language bug while at school, where all courses were taught in English by foreign teachers. It meant Li had no difficulty in mastering basic communication skills at the hotel and reading the English menus. But he felt he was idling his time away.

After work Li often had nothing to do except getting together with friends and eating and having fun, but he wanted more from life. After working for two years, Li quit his first job. Worried that he was not equipped with enough knowledge to pursue another career, Li sunk his savings into learning to drive and an advanced English course.

In 1994, a friend from the Kempinski decided to invest in a bar and he invited Li, who was almost 20, to run it. He was instantly taken by the idea and assisted in opening the first bar in Beijing. But it was not all that Li had hoped for. With no experience of running a bar and feeling uncomfortable with the style of the establishment, he closed it six months later. However, even in that short time, Li had managed to make friends with some of his more artistic clients – and he started fantasizing about becoming an artist.

Not knowing what to do next, Li went back to learning English to prepare for the future. Another six months passed before he was satisfied with a job offer, which turned out to be working in another hotel. He devoted all of his spare time to the English language and he even wore headphones while in the kitchen, absorbing as much as he could. "None of my colleagues understood me, they all said I was a freak," he chuckles.

Two years later, when another friend opened a bar and asked Li to come onboard, he felt he was ready to talk to customers directly and put forward the idea of coming out of the kitchen to tend bar. The enterprise was popular among foreigners and Li used every opportunity to practice his English. Unfortunately, the bar went under after six months, as the backer was not happy with the profit margin.

Determined he would never depend on other people's money for another bar, Li and a different friend planned to open their own establishment in Sanlitun. And the Mustard Seed Garden was to become more than a watering hole, as an investor wanted to create an art gallery on the premises. But Li's association with his own bar concept looked like it was going

Former Chef Serves Up Hearty Contribution to Contemporary Art



Li Zhenhua, who has moved out of the kitchen into world of art, relaxes at home.

to be shorter lived than his previous attempts. Before the bar's doors swung open, a foreign tourism company arrived in Beijing to recruit staff for a luxury ocean liner. Many people applied due to promises of good pay and an opportunity to see the world – and Li was among them.

After passing a few rounds of testing and surviving the interview, he was hired. At the same time, the Mustard Seed Garden opened. Both his partner and the art gallery investor asked Li to stay, which he eventually agreed to. Casting his mind back to the decision, a happy Li says: "If I had left with the ocean liner, I might still be a chef on a ship somewhere, but I made the decision to stay and it changed my life forever."

The winds of change

However, like almost all people in business, Li was to have a turbulent time. First, Li's partner went abroad, leaving him to run the bar single-handedly. Frustrated and on the verge of quitting, he was encouraged by the art gallery investor to stay on. But then, just as Li said he would continue, renovations started in the area around the bar. And it was not long before the Mustard Seed Garden – already famous in Beijing's artistic circles – became another casualty of the renovation project. That was enough for Li and

he turned his back on the idea of running a bar forever to become an independent art broker and art exhibition organizer.

But the satisfaction from the decision to change tack was soon sunk. After acting as the broker for a painter and organizing a contemporary art exhibition for him, Li discovered the prevailing problems within the business. Not being serious enough and not wanting to play by the rules, some artists were more interested in making private deals with buyers which would cut brokers out of their sales commissions.

Li was becoming increasingly bewildered by the city's artistic circles and a cloud of uncertainty moved overhead. Then, fate pushed him in a new direction. "Luck seems to be on my side all the time," he says. In 1999, the British Council started a grant scheme that would take eight students from China for a three-month art management-training course at the London-based Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA).

A friend told Li of the opportunity, but he did not even consider the possibility of applying. He had only graduated from a vocational school and did not have a college degree, which was one of the minimum requirements. Nevertheless, he was persuaded by his friend to try, and he sent in a CV along

with brochures of the art exhibitions he had organized for the British Embassy's cultural and educational section. A week later he was being interviewed, with his English language skills and art experience coming to the fore.

It turned out Li was just the sort of person they wanted for the program and he was among the eight chosen from more than 60 applicants. But in a cruel twist, his first application for a visa was refused by the embassy. Li thought fate was playing a joke on him again, and he calmly accepted the rejection. However, his visa application was approved the next day, after the embassy's cultural and educational section intervened. He now talks about the mixed feelings he had at the time with a good dose of humor. "After experiencing two very different feelings in two days, I could hardly believe my luck," a persistent Li said.

At the time, Li was only 24 and nervous about going abroad for the first time. The anxiety twiggled again when the England-bound plane was grounded due to a mechanical failure and all passengers were taken to a nearby hotel to wait. But all nerves lifted when the plane was finally in the air and Li was on his way to Europe.

His study began in earnest by speaking to curators and project managers from different museums and galleries. While learning from their experience in terms of planning and organizing exhibitions, Li became deeply impressed.

ICA is located in downtown London, near Buckingham Palace. It matches the artistic ambience of its surroundings, which gave Li a feeling of real fulfillment. The trip to the city also changed his opinion of British art galleries and artists, which he had thought were very conservative. Li's time abroad passed in a flash, as he was going to various museums

and art galleries every day. He was fascinated, became inspired and could not wait to start a new career back in China.

Coming home

The reality of China knocked some of the wind out of Li's sails as he quickly recognized the low standard of art management in the country. He then became disheartened, given he was not able to find the right institution or place to apply what he had learned. But the momentum soon started to build and Li went from strength to strength. Since returning from Britain, he has participated in and organized a series of contemporary art events, in addition to continuing to promote the cultural exchanges of contemporary art and artists from China and abroad.

The ever-optimistic Li then uses an example to reinforce his view that bad outcomes do not necessarily come from unpleasant experiences. "One day, a friend of mine was beaten up in the street, in a case of mistaken identity, and he was admitted to hospital. The first thing he said after seeing me was 'I should be thankful for this.' Otherwise, he would never have known that so many people cared about him and wanted to come to visit him."

Such an attitude to life may have been the key to Li's success so far – which is something that does not seem to be deserting him. Several weeks ago, he was appointed as the first spokesman for a special range of cameras that are typically used by artists or other people who are looking for pictures with unusual and unique effects. He is now busily preparing for *Techniques of the Visible*, a bi-annual exhibition to be staged in Shanghai in the near future. And it seems Li has much more up his sleeves, as he attempts to leave his mark on and contributes to the contemporary art cultures in China and abroad.



Li (left) on Quis de Chine performance held in France, 2004

Events and exhibitions organized by Li Zhenhua

2004

- Volkswagen Sound Foundation Projects
- Onedotzero 2004; Beijing
- Lille 2004 – Europe Culture Capital; France
- Out the Window – Space of Distraction art exhibition; Japan, South Korea

2003

- Short Film Festival; Spain
- Illuminate the Great Wall Summer Festival; Hebei Province
- Ceremony, Wang Jianwei's Multi-media Theatre Project; Beijing-France-London
- CAPALBIO Short Film Festival; Italy
- The FINKS Multi-media Theatre by Lenni Basso; Japan-Beijing-Guangzhou

2002

- The MIDI Music Festival; Beijing

- The Long March Project; China
- MAAP, Beijing-Australia
- Establish White Cube Space; Beijing
- Non-documentary Experimental Film Festival; Beijing-Kunming
- The Thundercloud Project, 'Maerzmusik' Festival; Germany

2001

- 'Nemesis' Project; Beijing
- 'Sound;' Beijing
- The Heneiken Beat Summer Festival, Beijing

1999

- 'Life Or Art;' Beijing
- 'Corruptionists;' Beijing
- 'The first rave party on the Great Wall

Li (left) at Out the Window art exhibition in Japan, 2004



Herzog & De Meuron's TPT Tower

By Gareth George

It's a hard time to be an architect biennial in Beijing. You're the first of your kind in Asia, hoping to be a landmark event with all the razzle that goes with being a big, new idea. And what happens? You end up laboring in the geometrically confrontational shadow of Rem Koolhaas's CCTV building. And if you think a blueprint can't cast a shadow, bear in mind that OMA (the company that provided the winning design) could probably make a near life-size model of the controversial skyscraper, just from all the newsprint it's been generating.

The same cannot be said of the Architectural Biennial Beijing 2004, which wound up on Wednesday last week. Not to say the ideas have not been sound: the listings by category, by venue for the various exhibitions are clear and, by all accounts, easy to use. The exhibitions themselves were nicely realized. Each room scored well for curiosity factor, without lacking substance.

In fact, the exhibition was like a microcosm of the Biennial itself, and much of the controversy surrounding it. There were some jaw-dropping designs. Zaha Hadid's (London) Guangzhou Opera House and her Soho City Masterplan were exact representations of what Takashi Tamaguchi (Japan) spoke of in his speech on post-post modern architecture: bubbles of glass and concrete intertwining with the environment, suggesting the sense of integration with mother earth that reflects contemporary thought in this www-dominated world. Herzog & De Meuron's (Switzerland) TPT Tower by contrast, was a more primal creation. An elementally inspired trio of office towers which will reflect the color of the sky during the day, and glow an angry crimson at night. Like Dante's inferno, only full of businessmen.

Noticing a pattern here? The really big, really flashy designs, are the ones coming over with the foreign architects. No surprise really – China, and Beijing in particular, is one of the few places where there is a steady supply of big contracts and open minded clients looking for something ultra modern. Shanghai and Beijing may be regarded as the world's first truly 21st cen-



The China National Gallery houses the biennial's main exhibition, featuring new designs by architects from around the world.



Rem Koolhaas

tury cities, so it's no wonder the world's star architects are lining up like school children at the window of a candy store.

Architects will always be interested in building great objects, while city building is the job of a planner, said keynote speaker Alexander Garvin, Adjunct Professor of Urban Planning and Management at Yale University, where he has lectured for 36

years. According to Garvin, it's no wonder the great Western architects are here – the Chinese are buying them up like the Americans did with the great European artists a century ago. China is uniquely forward thinking and progressive in so many ways, what is worrying is that a lot of what's happening in Beijing looks like Las Vegas (inadequate urbanism) or Moscow (superblocks

Appetite for Construction

Has the Architectural Biennial Beijing 2004 laid the foundations for the future?



Koolhaas's CCTV building

as they do because there was a culture working over centuries. They didn't need foreigners – neither does Beijing."

When Garvin finished his speech (a major part of which discussed why planning successes are so often overlooked), and fielded questions, mostly from local planning and architecture students, he must have used the same answer four or five times. It went something like this: "I don't want to comment, because I've never visited the site. In my experience, the actual site itself is often very different to what you hear about in theory." And herein lies the torn heart of the biennial: on the one hand, the idealistic candles of the architects, and especially the architecture students, saying "what if?" On the other, the planners with their icy buckets of water, warning of mistakes waiting to be made.

But you can't blame people for getting caught up in the excitement. After all, with the Olym-

pics around the corner, these are exciting times. Philip Enquist, who leads the Urban Design and Planning studios in SOM's Chicago office, is full of praise for the attitudes he's found in China. "The government wants to move forward and knows it has to move forward. And they are doing it in exemplary ways. They are faced with tough decisions every day, and they are making them. In the historic city of Suzhou, they're tearing down houses around the moat. But they're replacing them with this incredible public park system which they've never had before. The rate of growth is such that rapid change is necessary, bringing modern water and sewage facilities to the residents. They're losing history, but they are seriously thinking about what they are replacing it with. I found everyone to be really open minded about urban design and city planning in a way that other cities [around the world] have not."

Enquist is very positive about the future, and it shouldn't be suggested that the foreign architects are mere show ponies, interested only in aesthetics. But forget Suzhou, what about Beijing?

Elsewhere at the biennial, we heard talk of using computers to understand the behavior of curvature (examples of this technology will be used in the new CCTV building). This allows greater utility of space and can be a mechanism for maximizing resources in poorer areas. Beijing is using this technology today. We heard talk of Tokyo, and the baroque skyscrapers there – merely taking existing designs and making them bigger, like the obsolete Dreadnought class ships of the 19th century. This isn't happening in Beijing. China's capital is leading the world in its willingness to accept innovation.

Everyone has been talking about the Koolhaas/CCTV controversy. And everyone at the biennial wanted to talk about possibilities. But behind all the headline grabbing fireworks, and the talk of future, it seems that almost no one is really talking about the fundamentals of the tomorrow city. This means effective city planning, which can't be bought from some big name foreigner or foreign company, but will be built on the backs of local Beijingers.

City planning means quality of life. City planning means a city as a living environment. And without it, Beijing risks ending up as a cabinet filled with beautiful ornaments (very nice to look at, but have you ever tried to drive in a cabinet?).

Unfortunately, when it comes to generating news print, reality is never as exciting as controversy.

美食 · 娱乐 · 休闲 TEL: 68997124 68311626

ZiyiXuan Baochi Lou 紫怡轩鲍翅楼

3rd Floor Building B,
Donghuan Guangchang,
29 Dongzhong jie,
Dongcheng District
东城区东中街 29 号东环广场 B 幢 3 层
11:00-14:30, 17:00-22:00
6856.9388

Beijing Roast Duck 北京烤鸭店

Building 3, Tuanjie Lake, Chaoyang District
朝阳区团结湖北口 3 号楼
11:40-14:00, 17:00-21:30
6852.4003

Bianyifang Roast Duck Restaurant 便宜坊

2A Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Chongwen District
崇文区崇文门大街甲 2 号
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30
Tel: 6712.0505

CLUB GREEN BEST CLUB IN BEIJING

ADD: Land mark Tower 1/F 8 North Dong San Huan Road. chaoyang District Beijing
地址: 北京市朝阳区东三环北路 8 号亮马河大厦一层

TEL: (010) 65906999 65906688 – 2988

COME & BE AS COOL AS -- GREEN



Spice Orchids Thai Restaurant

Welcome to our Spice Orchids Thai Restaurant.

Our features are undeniable: Walls decorated in purple and deep wine red; colors that really work together to produce a harmony; food that lie on in its contrasts; chefs that create a wonderful medley of hot, cool, sour, sweet, crunchy and soft dishes. Fish cake, deep-fried Taro, Green Pepper & Red Curry Fried with Beef and Minced meat fried with Basil leaves are not to be missed. And, we have a unique Chinese name, Tai Xiang La, which means Spicy Thai Restaurant, verbally; and Very Good Smell, phonetically. You're likely to satisfy your taste buds for a mere of RMB18 up, with weekday set lunch from RMB25-50. Tasty and inexpensive. A very good casual dining experience. Add: 8 South Street, Guan Dong Dian, Chaoyang District. (North of Kerry Centre Hotel and the back of Hot-Point Disco) Tel: 6591.7726 Fax: 6591.7926

Donglaishun Restaurant

东来顺

5/F, Xindong'an Plaza, Wangfujing
Da jie, Dongcheng District
东城区王府井大街 新东安商场 5 层
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30
6528.0932

Fan Shi Gang

饭是钢

140 Andingdajie, Dongcheng District
东城区安定大街 140 号
9:00-23:00
64042187

New French Restaurant Now Open!

来过罗兰·加洛斯吗? 不知你有没有来过罗兰·加洛斯, 有没有尝过这里鲜嫩的蜗牛, 有没有就着奶酪品味波尔多的葡萄酒, 有没有燃着古巴雪茄欣赏网球公开赛? 侍者是彬彬有礼的, 还能把每款酒, 每种烟的来由娓娓道出。氛围是典雅的, 还有温暖浪漫的烛光。这里还有独具特色的网球文化主题服务: 专门从海外订购的网球历史文化资料, 精彩纷呈的网球主题活动和球友内部通讯, 主题网站与“一网打尽”网球网络联盟。Spoil yourself with genuine French fare and ambiance and a superb variety of wines at the **Roland Garros** restaurant. Close a full evening of relaxation with a choice of dramatic desserts, coffees, and Cuban cigars.

ROLAND GARROS
RESTAURANT & BAR, BEIJING, CHINA

罗兰·加洛斯 餐厅

罗兰·加洛斯网球主题法式餐厅
Roland Garros Restaurant
Open: 11:00-24:00 Daily

地址: 朝阳区农展南路朝阳网球俱乐部北门一层
Address: North Entrance Chaoyang Tennis Club
Nongzhan Nanlu, Chaoyang District
Telephone: 6508-9100

北京好世界阳光酒店 BEIJING FANTASY WORLD CLUB

It offers a full range of services, including fine rooms, restaurants and entertainment centre.

FU LIN Seafood Restaurant: more than 100 kinds of fresh seafood are now 20% off.
Korean Flavour Restaurant: newly open, supply Korean food and barbecue. 20% off.
Entertainment Centre: Bowling, billiards, karaoke and gymnasium.

Tel: (010) 68843388-718/620
Add: 1 Gu Cheng Nan Lu Shijingshan District
(100 meters in west from Gu Cheng metro station)
电话: (010) 68843388-718/620 (详见店内海报)
地址: 石景山区古城南路 1 号(地铁古城站西 100 米)

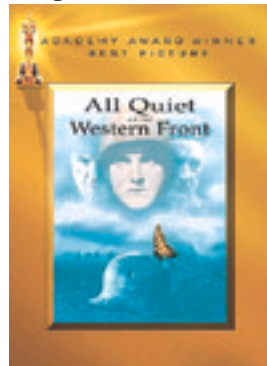
What's on DVD

By Wang Yue



The Shaolin Temple

This 1979 film directed by Chang Hsin Yen is the first installment of a series starring Jet Li. It tells the story of a young boy who is raised by the monks of the Shaolin Temple and learns kung fu in order to take revenge on the traitorous general who killed his father. Chinese with Chinese and English subtitles. DVD 5



All Quiet on the Western Front

This "Best Picture" winner at the 1930 Academy Awards (not to be confused with the remake starring Ernest Borgnine), is adapted from the novel written by Erich Maria Remarque. A young soldier faces profound disillusionment in the soul-destroying horror of World War I. English with English (Captions), Spanish and French subtitles. DVD 5



Silmido

Directed by Woo-Suk Kang, Silmido tell the story of how in January 1968, 31 members of North Korean Special Unit 124 infiltrated South Korea with the ultimate mission of assassinating President Park Chung-hee. Korean with English and Chinese subtitles. DVD 5



Photos by Cui Jun

By Jacqueline Yu

The choice by the French government of Jean Michel Jarre to open the 2004 Sino-French Cultural Year made perfect sense after witnessing his concert Sunday. The performance made use of the very latest in high-definition surround sound technology and an array of haunting visual effects.

Jarre presented a non-conventional view of France, which might update those old impressions dominated by the Eiffel Tower. And it is hard to imagine a more fitting venue for such a show than the Forbidden City.

Around Wumen, the southern entrance of the Forbidden City, were nine enormous structures, as high as the palace walls: three cylinders, three circular cones and three spheres. At first glance, they seemed to be hi-tech components of a nuclear power plant, and then, they brought to mind I.M. Pei's glass pyramid in front of the Louvre Museum in Paris.



Few Beijingers at Sunday's concert would remember Jarre's last performance in this city. That was 23 years ago, at the Capital Stadium. China was then just starting to open up to the outside world and anything from overseas was considered novel. Whatever the impact of Jarre's electronic musical magic on that audience so long ago, the only word to describe Sunday evening's show is - wicked!

The audience seemed to be totally enveloped by the music. Because of the six enormous sections of audience seating, most people couldn't actually see Jarre on the stage and couldn't really tell who was doing what.

Jarre played a few creations from his new album *Aero*, which was released in Beijing yesterday, including *Aero*, *Oxygene 2*, *Oxygene 4*, *Zoolookologie*, and *Souvenir De Chine*. And some little high-tech sound tricks caused the audience to smile, as when it felt as if we

Real Wicked Jarre

Rock Review

By Wang Yao

Modernsky recording company has launched its own rock and roll October Revolution with Mu Ma's third album *Jelly Empire*.

Mu Ma formed in 1998 in Changsha, Hunan. Vocalist Mu Ma (Xie Qiang's experience at art college informs the abstract vision of their music. They are the first gothic band in the mainland, and they claim they don't like to exaggerate their music or themselves.

The album was engineered by Turtlerock Production Company, in Australia. The studio has col-

Jelly Empire

laborated with some of the biggest names worldwide, including U2, Sting and Tina Turner.

The hit *Jelly Empire* is a creation of their golden days. *Feifeirun*, a key song for the band which they have already recorded several versions of, has been re-edited into two new versions. In the new versions, you can hear the very original motivation of the song, love to Mu Ma's wife. *Ba Zuichun Zhai Chudiao* employs effect-laden guitar and bass and its repeated melody has a sense of hopelessness with its heavy sound



and somber rhythm. *Meili de Nanfang* (*Beautiful South*) sounds impressive, conjuring the pursuit of lost dreams, while hinting that the dream will remain lost, "It obviously cannot be reached, it is the beautiful south."

WORLDWIDE



Christopher Reeve

Superman Actor Christopher Reeve Dies

Actor Christopher Reeve, who brought comic book hero Superman to the silver screen, then championed the disabled after an equestrian accident in 1995 left him paralyzed, has died of heart failure at the age of 52, his publicist said.

Reeve died at 5:30 pm Sunday at Northern Westchester Hospital at Mount Kisco, New York, after suffering cardiac arrest and falling into a coma at his home the previous day.

The actor was being treated for a pressure wound, a common complication for people living with paralysis, the publicist said in a statement. The wound had become severely infected, resulting in a serious systemic infection.

(AFP)



Ford's Successor Has Polka-Dotted Debut

It's no easy task to follow Tom Ford. Stefano Pilati's debut as designer for Yves Saint Laurent was a largely polka-dotted affair, as the top houses wrapped up their Paris shows for the spring-summer 2005 ready-to-wear season on Sunday.

The Italian presented ruffled skirts, pleated fuchsia suits, and satiny or leafy dresses with bustles at the back - what he called a nod to the styles found in works of legendary French writer Marcel Proust.

Pilati, Ford's former right-hand man at YSL, found taking the reins after the Texan star quit parvate company Gucci a year ago challenging - but he felt confident. "I did what I felt," he said.

(AP)



Shark Tale

Shark Tale Leads Box Office for Second Weekend

The gangster cartoon *Shark Tale* roughed up its rivals at the North American box office for a second weekend, while Billy Bob Thornton scored a touchdown at No. 2 with his new school football drama *Friday Night Lights*.

Former *Saturday Night Live* star Jimmy Fallon's headlining debut *Taxi* stalled at No. 4, while ubiquitous teen queen Hilary Duff's latest drama *Raise Your Voice* struggled to be heard at No. 6.

DreamWorks' *Shark Tale*, featuring the voices of Will Smith and Robert De Niro in the story of fishy mobsters, bit off \$31.7 million for the three days beginning Friday, taking its 10-day catch to \$87.7 million. The film cost about \$70 million to make. (Reuters)



Elton John

Elton John's Photos Go on Auction Block

Elton John is known for his music, but what about his photos? A hundred photographs from the singer's collection will go on the auction block at Christie's this week.

The collection includes photographs taken by some of the world's most famous photographers, including Ansel Adams, Robert Mapplethorpe and a Man Ray rayograph. Christie's expects Mapplethorpe's 1987 photo *Calla Lily* to go for as much as 50 thousand dollars and the Adams photo, 1942's *Tetons and the Snake River* to snag as much as 45 thousand dollars.

John has collected photographs since 1991. Christie's says the collection is regarded as one of the leading private ones in the world. The auction is scheduled for 6 pm Thursday.

(AP)

Edited by Chen Si

品牌装修送品牌保洁

采用无甲醛板材及进口环保水性涂料
使您的住宅远离装修污染

为您的家庭量身打造
装修施工方案

Beijing Jia Yu Hua Decoration Co., Ltd
地址: 北京市朝阳区亮马桥路光明大厦8层1806室
电话: (010) 8455 2536 (嘉宾专线) 64678822-1806
传真: (010) 8455 2530
Add: Room 1806, 8F, Guangming Plaza, Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang, Beijing, China
Tel: (010) 8455 2536 (嘉宾专线) 64678822-1806
FAX: (010) 8455 2530

加裕華裝飾

家居保洁 商业保洁

To provide cleaning and maintenance service
for a graceful living and working space

美奥保洁
Meiao Houskeeping

优质服务队伍
Efficient service team

专业进口设备
Advanced equipment

Tel: 6207 0911 6207 0929

Landing Careers in Real Estate



Two colorful guides greet visitors outside the Eighth Kunming Real Estate Fair in late September in Yunnan Province. The rapid prosperity of the real estate industry in China is creating high demand for talented designers, architects, contractors, marketing experts and more.

Photo by Photocom

By Xie Lixue

There is good reason that Beijing has become a forest of cranes in recent years as one new complex goes up after another – people of all walks of life are pressing to buy private apartments and homes, while businesses need new places to set up shop in the booming local and domestic markets.

Whether it is the CBD, Zhongguangcun, the site of the 2008 Olympics or many other places around town, China's capital is a city literally on the rise. The explosion of the local real estate industry has opened countless challenging and potentially rewarding job opportunities in the competitive field.

Boomtown

The construction and real estate industry is one of the 10 most popular in China for finding a good career and the sixth easiest field for finding a job, according to a survey released by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security in June.

That report on job market trends in 2004 noted that investment in construction of buildings in Beijing had risen 18 percent annually in recent years and would peak this year with total construction of 120 million square meters of new residential, commercial and other space.

Such growth is likely to continue. And the 2008 Olympic Games is all but sure to lead to great returns for firms in the real estate field.

Moving up

These heady days of building are the perfect time for building a solid career in the real estate industry.

Total demand for new employees in the real estate field would hit 60,000 people this year, up 25 percent from last year, Liu Zhesheng, president of the human resources association of the Beijing Construction Association was quoted as saying in an article on the group's website.

Over 60 percent of employees in the field are construction workers, but 34 percent are managerial-level employees and five percent upper level managers, the article said.

“The ‘bird’s nest’ stadium for the 2008 Olympics, the new CCTV office building, Building C of the International Trade Center and other major projects are driving demand for more highly-qualified and competent architects, engineers and developers,” he added.

The ranks of top managers and other elite employees in the field may be limited, but positions tend to be very rewarding, commanding average salaries of 150,000 yuan to 300,000 yuan per year and going way up from there.

Getting in the door

Keys to success in the real estate field are accumulating experience and being able to translate foreign and domestic concepts for a mixed group of customers.

Yet starting out, things may not be easy. Many graduates complain they often have little chance to show their abilities in entry-level positions in the real estate industry.

But such lowly jobs have advantages, despite their long hours, as they train people to develop solid interpersonal skills, customer service concepts and can even lead to decent money.

With increasing numbers of real estate projects being taken on through domestic and international cooperation, many new structures meld designs and ideas of the East and West.

Hu, however, advised that Chinese companies and employees in the real estate industry do far more than simply imitate their foreign counterparts.

“We should focus on our traditional culture, such as old courtyard homes, or *siheyuan*, structures that are distinctly Chinese in style. Chinese graduates in architecture and other related fields who study abroad and then merge their knowledge of foreign and domestic design are generally the most highly sought after architects in China.”

Corporate HR

By Xie Lixue

Perhaps not surprisingly, considering it is a provider of special services for pregnant women, newborns and babies, the company Babycare prides itself on its tender, nurturing corporate culture. It manufactures and sells items for mothers and babies such as bathing products and offers consulting on how best to raise infants.

Through email, Li Xiaowen, human resources manager for Babycare, told *Beijing Today* about the company's values, recruitment policies and methods for inspiring employees to do their best.

BT: What are the key values at Babycare?

Li Xiaowen: The most important values are love and care. In doing business, we

Babycare: Nurture by Nature

not only sell our products, but also provide kind, considerate services.

We also try to follow the ‘golden rule’, meaning people should treat others as they want to be treated. Within our company, that is especially embodied in the manager-employee relationship.

We believe that only if there is a harmonious atmosphere among staff can the company develop.

BT: What is the role of the HR department?

Li: We are the link between the company and employees and support the business through bringing in talented people and adjusting the staff structure.

Of course, the customer always comes first, so the atti-



Li Xiaowen, human resources manager for Babycare
Photo provided by Babycare

tudes and performances of our sales people or consultants are keys to establishing the reputation of the company. We try to keep employees happy so they will provide optimal services to customers.

BT: Do you prefer female candidates when recruiting?

Li: Our business is providing products and consult-

ing information for pregnant women, infants and babies, so female applicants, especially mothers, have definite advantages.

However, in interviews, gender is not the decisive factor. What we look for most is a proper working attitude. We look for people who seem active and have potential to learn.

BT: How you inspire staff to do their best?

Li: At Babycare, every person is considered a company asset and their performance and efforts key to the development of the business.

A unique activity at the company is having sales people share their dreams. One person may dream of being a successful manager, another of having a happy family. No

matter their dreams, we try to help people set goals and work step by step to turn dreams into reality.

A good example is one of our salespeople, who used to work as a receptionist. She wanted to achieve more at work, and though her background seemed weaker than some university graduates, she grabbed every chance to learn and worked hard. Finally, she was promoted to be director of the sales department based on her outstanding performance.

A Beijing-based English newspaper is looking for reporters, freelancers and editors.
Chinese applicants should have university degrees in English or related majors and media experience.
Foreigners from the UK and US with relevant media experience preferred.
Please send resumes and writing samples to: hr@ynet.com.

Jobs

A private medical clinic is looking for a medical clinic secretary.

Requirements: fluent English and Mandarin with superior phone skills. Medical knowledge and terminology desirable. One-year commitment required.

Duties: Reception, phone, marketing/advertising, bookkeeping, appointment scheduling for doctors.

Pay: 4,000 RMB/mo if able to perform all listed duties.

Send resume to: confidantmedical@yahoo.com

Help you to change your visa (f, x, z, j) and apply for green card.

Tel: 86592919

Email: alen678@163.com

Add: Fucheng Road 132, Haidian

Mr. Chen, a Chinese Canadian, graduate from Shanghai Tongji University, proficient in English and German. Worked as a country manager of a Chinese company in the US in 1995 and emigrated to Canada in 1998. Living in Toronto and active in business in the North America.

Interested to work as an agent for Chinese companies or to make arrangements for the establishment of rep offices in Canada and the US.

Contact: Guanjun Geofferey Chen

Add: 170 Forestwood Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada L4S 1Y4

Tel: 001-905-508-1700 (8-11am, local time), or: 0392-3931163, 3336537 in China

A cultural media company wants to hire a foreigner for international business.

Requirements: male, British, long time in Beijing, love Chinese culture, stable, honest. Legal experience an advantage.

Contact: sun198052@yahoo.com.cn

An enthusiastic girl, confident in her future, is looking for a job related to English. Good at English listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Please contact Miss Xie at: 62373739, 13114513646

Email: Flora2@sina.com

(You are welcome to send positions offered and wanted info to: ayi@ynet.com. Beijing Today does not take any responsibility for the accuracy and authenticity of the information published in this column.)

北京青年报
BEIJING TODAY
今日北京

房地产版(英文版)
让我们和太阳一起升起

《北京青年报·房地产版(英文版)》是《北京青年报》每周五推出的房地产及相关的广告专版,其英文版随报发行媒体优势不言而喻。根据房产客户的需求,让公司决策层直接阅读到相关内容,更具针对性,力争使客户的广告效力发挥至最大!

Real Estate Edition in English of Beijing Youth Daily, which is released every Friday, is a new advertising special one for the real estate and relative industries. The English Edition is delivered with the newspaper so the media advantage is very obvious. Real Estate Edition in English of Beijing Youth Daily, aiming at the advertiser's requests for the more pertinence, let's the policy-makers read the relative contact directly and try to reach the most advertisement effectiveness

HOT TEL: 13910419797

Dart Foreign Affairs Management Office

*Yard architecture whih European style
*sufficient parking space, convenient traffic, complete facilities and offering service around the day

**Dart Commmerce Office

1. it is located between CBD center and Guomao
2. favourable price: RMB3-4 yuan/squaremeter/day
3. telephone number: 65032597 or 64951817

**Dart Commmerce Garden

1. it is located in the New Olympic sphere and it is betwee foreign account office and the Chinese-Japanese Hospital
2. favourable price: RMB 2.8-3.5 yuan/squaremeter/day
3. telephone number: 65032097 or 65032598

My company also has open separate foreign of-ice building with 15000 square meter to be sold(Including property right). It is located in north-eastern corner of Siyuan Bridge.

龙潭涉外公寓
LONGTAN APARTMENTS
from \$500/month. 34-110 sq.m (studio, 1-2 bedrooms)

Fully furnished with satellite TV, IDD appliances. 24hour hot water, security, plentiful parking near the Temple of Heaven, Chongwen District

call now for more details.
67115358 67128749

WARWICK INTERNATIONAL APARTMENTS

Were we do our job...So you can do yours.

Special recommended villa at Lido are \$6000/29spm/3br/fully furnished

TEL: (010) 67151166 ext. 3005/3006

赛特饭店 SCITECH HOTEL
BUSINESS FLOOR ON LINE

Business Floor Standard Room: USD98+15%SC
Business Floor Suite: USD138+15%SC
Business Floor Duplex Suite: USD300+15%SC

Express check in & check out Free use 3DDS Internet Lines
One free buffet in Coffee Shop per day Daily newspaper & Magazine Free use
swimming pool, GYM and sauna Free income taxes
Daily happy hours: (17:30-18:30) Welcome amenities on arrival

One piece free pressing per day

ADD: No. 22 Jianguomen wai Avenue, Beijing 10004 P.R. China
Tel: 8610-65123388
Fax: 8610-65123542
E-mail: sthotel@w.com.cn

City Plaza (Phase) And Palace International

Address: 3A, Shi Lipu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China
Transportation: conveniently close to Chaoyang Road, Jingdong Express Way, and Ciyunsi Bridge of the 4th Ring Road

Services: Receptionist (Lobby), Tickets, Room Service, Home Maid, Room Cleaning, Home Appliance Repairs, and Flowers.

Rental Returns: USD900.00-2200per month
Current Occupation Rate: Offices: 100%; Department 95.7%
Business Tax: 0.4%
Management Fees: Palace International: RMB800 per square meter per month for Cleaning, Security (in-door and out-door), Vegetation, Elevators, Elevators, Minor Repairs, Room.

HOT TEL: 65561798

NWD (Hotels Investments) Limited
Beijing Kiu Lok Property Management Services Co Ltd

Member of the Hong Kong Listed New World Group invites high-calibre applications for the post of Leasing Executives:

Applications must possess:

- University degree
- presentable appearance
- excellent inter-personal and negotiation skill
- outgoing and aggressive personality
- fluency of spoken English and Putonghua
- sound sales / marketing experience and record
- corporate client connections a definite advantage

We offer attractive basic salary, commission and excellent career prospect. Please send both English and Chinese resume (with employment history, academic qualification, present and expected salary) together with a recent photo to The Sales

保罗大厦

◇ To South of Lan Dao building, it's new building
◇ Area: 3500m2-4000m2, 430spm/per floor
◇ This building is available to Bank, Negotiable Securities, Business Center, restaurant etc.
◇ 24hours security & hot water
Tel: 65958081 65958060
Mobil: 13701350511 13910890956
Add: No. 38 Chao Wai avenue Chao Yang district Beijing

Sunflower Tower 盛福大厦

Investors: Philipp Holzmann Anlagen GmbH
Location: No. 37, Maizidian Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing Next to the Liang Ma Hotel. Located at the East 3rd Ring Road

Area: 817 square meters (based on architectural area) on 24th Floor
Asking rent: USD28/month/sqm (gross including management)

Communication: Supplied nodes IDD lines and 4MB of Capacity ISDN is available

Elevator: 10 KONE elevators HVAC System: Four-pipe system

Amenities: Business center, Exhibition facilities, Retail space

Existing Tenants: Walt Disney, BASY, KONE, E-turtle Nex work

Tel: 85275696-608

中国人寿大厦
CHINA LIFE TOWER

租售热线:
Enquiry hotline: 65886868

Developer:
Beijing Zhong Baixin Real Estate development Ltd
Designer: RTKL Company

北京市国宾大厦
BEIJING AMBASSADOR MANSION
Ambassador Mansion
Good News!

Newly decorated apartments and offices
Apartment styles Available!
Range from 1 bedroom to 4 bedroom
USD1000/month up

Office Styles
Nex area from 20m2-1600m2
Ambassador Mansion is an excellent choice for your business or life
For more information
Call us at 010-64384093
or fax on 010-64380148

寻求合作
本公司欲求东二环、东三环附近写字楼式办公楼进行合作。要求: 手续合法, 价格合理, 中介免谈, 真心合作者请来电: 64055786

this newspaper's perennial legal adviser: Beijing jingtai law office
undertaking mostly:

1. real estate business that buy, rent and manage kinds of licences in Beijing;
2. foreign cases, maritime, finance, bond, important and difficult affairs;
3. debt, economy contract, foreign marriage cases, criminal defense;
4. notarizations;
5. holding perennial legal advisers for foreign enterprises, providing legal assistance;
6. providing law, regulations and contract versions in any languages.

TEL: 86-10-83521218 FAX: 86-10-83525557
http://www.venus-law.com e-mail: jt@venus-law.com

As many people who have tried learning Chinese abroad and countless Chinese studying English in this country can attest, trying to master a language in a country where it is not the native language is a real challenge.

“Immerse yourself into the country you are going to study. You will only really improve when you speak, think and dream in English!” suggested Sue Edwards, director of academic programs of Aspect Group (UK and Ireland), in an online chat with *Beijing Today* readers this Monday.

During the chat in the Study Abroad Salon, Edwards provided expert advice on European universities, how to choose universities and majors best suited to students’ different needs and how to smoothly plan for future studies.

About Aspect:

How does Aspect cooperate with Chinese agents?

— Red Tea

We are here in China to support our agents. Agents are the people who deal directly with students and parents and our job here is to train agents on our schools and courses and provide them with the materials they need to promote our courses.

What services does your business provide? What are Aspect’s main focuses?

— host

Aspect, founded in 1963, is a world leader in international cultural exchange, English language training, university and college placement, academic preparation and foreign language studies.

It now has offices and representatives in 90 nations. It has four categories of business and services: Aspect Colleges, Aspect Foundation, Aspect University and College Placement Service and Internship Programs.

Do you have schools in China? Or do you plan to establish schools here?

— gorilla

No not yet! It is not our main business, as we specialize in education in English-speaking countries and we have no plans to open schools here. But you never know what the future may hold!

Do you provide assistance to Chinese students to study abroad?

— monkeyking

Really this is the role of an agent. Aspect provides a very full and comprehensive range of services from advice on destination country to advice on visas and university placement in the home country to well designed language programs in the destination country – with full support staff to help with accommodation, welfare, university placement and supporting students in every part of their programs.

Hopefully an agent will recommend Aspect and then prior to departure and once in the school we obviously offer a range of services. If you would like to find an agent who is promoting Aspect, please contact us via http://www.aspect.cn/contact_form.html.

What is the average charge

Crucial Aspects of Success Abroad



A representative of Aspect Education was on hand at a study abroad fair earlier this year in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province. Aspect does not provide agent services but serves domestic agents, while running many top-quality pre-study programs to prepare foreign students to get into universities in many countries.

China’s Ministry of Education issued a unified contract format last May to ensure that disputes between the service providers and their clients could be lowered.

Photo by Photocom



Sue Edwards

Photo by Zhang Nan

for your services?

— strawberry125

Courses vary in cost, but as an example, our yearly costs for tuition are:

Foundation year – 7,450 pounds sterling (1 year course)

A levels - 7,450 pounds (2 year course)

Pre-master’s from 2,650 to 7,450 pounds (10 to 30 weeks)

Academic year and semester programs – 2,800 to 4,400 pounds (20 to 30 weeks)

But our courses are very flexible and you can study from as little as two weeks.

Two months ago, “bogus schools” in the UK terrified many Chinese students and parents. Are your schools and colleges certified by the UK government and the governments of the destination countries?

— host

All Aspect UK Colleges are accredited by the British Council and the colleges that deliver the foundation programs are also validated by Portsmouth University.

This means the Aspect foundation program is consistent with other university foundation programs. Our colleges and academic staff are monitored by the university and all student work is checked in regular examination boards so the highest standards are maintained at all times.

At how many universities can you help place students?

— gorilla

Aspect has hundreds of partner universities worldwide including more than 70 in the UK, every New Zealand university and a growing list in Australia.

Through our UCPS (university and college placement service), which is free to all students studying with Aspect for more than two months, we can help you apply to any one of these universities, following our extensive counseling sessions to help you choose the right university and the right course for you. Any student who completes our full foundation year, pre-master’s or A level programs is guaranteed a

In a nutshell, there are advantages and disadvantages of many countries. The UK, for example, has a long history of excellent education but the cost of living is rather high, as are course costs. New Zealand perhaps doesn’t have quite such a long history but the costs are more reasonable, and still the education is of a very high quality.

When students study abroad, they must be responsible for their learning and study routine, be proactive in class, meaning taking part in discussion and seminars, explaining information and arguing points.

Aspect must have helped many Chinese students go to foreign universities. What do you think about Chinese students abroad?

— tea tea

We have indeed helped thousands of Chinese students go to top universities overseas. Chinese students, we find, are often very bright, particularly in subjects like numeracy and science, where they often top the class. It seems teaching of science-based subjects in China must be of a very high quality. The area Chinese students need the most help we find is study skills, as studying somewhere like the UK requires a somewhat different way of working. Chinese students often have more problems with tasks involved in writing theses and dissertations.

What suggestions do you have for Chinese students hoping to study abroad?

— host

Here are a few:

1) Be realistic. If your grades are good enough to get you into Chinese universities such as Peking and Tsinghua University, then you can realistically apply to Oxford or Cambridge in the UK. If you need to be more realistic in China, and aim for a more middle-of-the-road university, then you need to do so overseas too!

2) Don’t just look at league tables. There are no official league tables in the UK. It’s far more important to choose a good course and then choose the university for that course.

3) Make the most of studying overseas! Engage in the culture and country, make sure you get to know people from other countries and try not to live just in a Chinese community overseas.

(Edited by Zhang Nan)

Notice

Next Tuesday, Robert van Kan, chief representative of the Netherlands Education Support Office (NESO) Beijing, will participate in the Study Abroad Salon. NESO Beijing is authorized by the Dutch Embassy to deal with educational affairs.

Please log on to: <http://bjtoday.ynet.com>, or forward questions to the host, Ayi, at: ayi@ynet.com.
Time: Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2–3 pm

通知

下周二下午2-3点, 荷兰高等教育国际交流协会(NESO)首席罗伯特特将参与“留学聊天室”, 与大家讨论留学荷兰。NESO负责荷兰大使馆一切与教育有关的事务。

欢迎届时光临我们的网站: <http://bjtoday.ynet.com>, 或发送问题到主持人阿义的信箱: ayi@ynet.com。

Useful websites:

www.sugelan.com
www.uk.cn/bj
www.scotlandistheplace.com
www.educationuk.org/scotland
www.visitscotland.com

Top Scottish universities and colleges:

Abertay University, Dundee
Dundee University
Edinburgh University
Glasgow Caledonian University
Glasgow University
Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh
Napier University
Robert Gordon University
St Andrews University
Stirling University
Strathclyde University, Glasgow
University of Paisley
University of Aberdeen
Edinburgh Business School
Edinburgh College of Art
Glasgow School of Art
Moray House Institute of Education
Queen Margaret College
Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow
Scottish Agricultural College
Stevenson College
Telford College

Limited, Not Off Limits in Germany

By Zhang Nan

In German universities, the term “numerus clauses” means “limited subjects”. Programs in medicine, law and other fields are normally listed as limited subjects in most German universities. What exactly that means is something that creates confusion, and often fear, among foreign students preparing to further their educations in Germany.

But there is good news. Limited subjects are not worth worrying about.

“Limited subjects refers to those subjects which have a lot of students that apply and not enough places for them. Usually if the places that a subject can offer cannot meet the needs of applicants, it will be listed as a limited subject,” explained Frauke Dittmann, marketing director of German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Beijing.

“There are no fixed limited subjects in German universities. Limited subjects change each year depending on numbers of applicants. Medicine, law and pharmacy studies are the most common ones, but other areas like biology, psychology and architecture can be included as limited subjects.”

Keys to getting an offer into competitive limited subject courses are scores and test results, Dittmann told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday. Chinese students applying for limited subject courses need to have very high marks on the university entrance exam, or *gao-kao*, as well as strong scores in university studies, especially in courses in the fields where they hope to study.

In recent years, one of the most common limited subjects at universities has been computer science, as Germany has opened its green card policy to try to encourage the movement of international IT talent to its shores, leading to a spike in the number of people applying to study in the field.

Another academic area often going from normal subject to limited is economics.

Ask Ayi:

Q: My cousin wants to study music in Austria, but we know little about Austrian education. Could you please introduce the study structure at Austrian universities?

— magnet

A: The Austrian university system traditionally has consists of a two-tier system of degrees (diplomas and doctorates) and is currently in the process of introducing a three-tier system of degrees (bachelor’s, master’s and doctorates).

There are some new bachelor’s-master’s programs in which the bachelor’s degrees take three to four years to earn and then the master’s take another one or two years. These are available in all subjects.

Q: Do all students studying in France need to buy medical insurance?

— cry_cyber

A: The French social security system is considered one of the best in the world, and that goes for students, too. Social medical insurance provided to university students offers reimbursement for all or part of their medical expenses. This type of medical insurance is provided automatically (in most cases) and for free to people 28 years old and under who register at university.

But people over 28 who register have to buy medical insurance themselves.

(Edited by Zhang Nan)

Building Sino-Scottish Bridges

By Zhao Hongyi

Napier University of Edinburgh, Scotland, agreed to set up a joint campus with Zhengzhou University of Light Industry of China’s central Henan Province on Tuesday and the joint school will begin taking students in two years.

The signing of the deal was just one of the achievements of the First Minister of the Scottish Executive, Jack McConnell, during his visit to Beijing this week. McConnell led a large delegation consisting of principals and vice chancellors from dozens of Scottish universities and colleges to promote Scotland’s education industry.

To attract more Chinese students to Scottish schools, the minister launched a new campaign offering 20 full master’s study scholarships, to start from next year, at the China-Scotland Education Forum on Tuesday.



Joan Stringer, vice chancellor of Napier University and Zhang Yuwei, president of Zhengzhou University of Light Industry, signed an agreement Tuesday to set up a joint campus to open in two years in Henan Province.

Photo by Ayi

In a previous visit to China this year, Lewis MacDonald, Scotland’s deputy minister for enterprise and lifelong learn-

ing, launched a joint education promotion venture between related government agencies of the two countries.

Around 2,500 Chinese students are studying in Scotland, according to Andrew Cubie, chairman of British Council Scotland, the education promotion agency of the UK government.

“What impressed me most are the high quality of education, diversity of students, the beautiful accent of Scottish English, though it’s a bit strange, and the marvelous landscape,” said Zhang Qian, who recently completed a master’s in international politics at the University of Edinburgh.

Mark Simmons, market development manager of the British Council Scotland, noted at the forum that study in Scotland could also lead to high quality work experience, as Scottish laws allow international students to work in the country for two years after graduation.

By Tom Spearman

Do a quick search on the Internet for “vegetarian” and “Chinese food” and you’ll discover a whole host of sites enthusiastically proclaiming the many veggie delights Chinese cuisine has to offer, from tofu to innumerable varieties of vegetable and noodle dishes. Though debate still rages over which is the ultimate vegetable, or the dubious benefits of red meat and the odd glass of red wine, the one thing all nutrition experts are agreed on is that the healthiest possible diet should involve a wide variety of vegetables. And when it comes to variety, there is no cuisine in the world that matches China’s.

The irony is that while vegetarians around the world are discovering the delights of Chinese food, those living in the country have a much harder time. Vegetarian food has a long history in this country, partly because of Buddhist influences, but today the concept of wanting to avoid any trace of meat in food is often met with incredulity in restaurants. There are all sorts of elaborate theories for this. One is that people used to not be able to afford meat, but now that most city folk can, anyone who chooses not to eat meat must be crazy. Or there’s the idea that the diminished influence of Buddhism in modern China has allowed the vegetarian ethic to wither. But the likeliest explanation is the “*chabuduo*” philosophy, the idea that “more or less” is good enough.

Vegetarians in China soon become wearily familiar with the experience in restaurants of stating carefully that they don’t eat meat, only to find a bit of ham or chicken floating around in an otherwise veggie-friendly dish. Ask for an explanation and you’ll be told, “What? It’s only a bit of chicken.”

Of course there are plenty of restaurants where the staff are a little more conscientious and really do avoid frying the broccoli in animal-based oil or sprinkling dried fish shavings on top. But for those who have had enough of explaining themselves, there are more than a few alternatives in the capital. Just don’t be surprised if they are a little bit more expensive than usual.

Never mind the sperm juice

A restaurant described in most listing guides as being “run by monks” should be a safe bet for vegetarians,

even though the staff at **Pure Lotus Vegetarian** restaurant admitted they were lay Buddhists, rather than practicing monks. The location is not too promising, hidden away in a corner among gray apartment blocks just off the Third Ring Road. But step inside the doors and it’s immediately obvious you have entered a vegetarian haven. The place is beautifully decorated



Mystical melon plate at Pure Lotus Vegetarian.

upstairs and downstairs, with lots of flowing fabrics, plants and Buddhist icons.

The sense that this is a special place is maintained by the menus. There’s no alcohol, only tea or health juices. But the homemade juices offer all sorts of amazing benefits. For instance, the wild Chinese yam health drink for men “can help strengthen a man’s sperm”. There’s also a female version which apparently can “beautify the face”. But they don’t come cheap, at 25 yuan per glass.

The food menu is similarly elaborate, with dish names such as “I shall absorb whatever comes my way eggplant,” (*suiyuan shehua douchi qiezi*, 38 yuan). Despite the worrying name, this turned out to be absolutely delicious, given a nice boost by the black beans and shitake mushrooms mixed in to the brew. Uncertain diners may

Good Ways to Beat Meat

well want to ask the wait staff’s advice and a major point in favor of this place is that they don’t immediately turn to the most expensive things on the menu. The waiter advised trying the 32-yuan Lotus Pond Crispy Fragrant Lily Bulb (*hetang yuese xiang baihe*), basically fried mixed vegetables, presented beautifully in a lily leaf. Sounds ordinary, tastes fantastic – simple, good ingredients well cooked. The different types of mushrooms tasted distinctive and the broccoli was fresh and crunchy.

The highlight on this occasion was one of many examples in which tofu can stand in surprisingly well for meat: a veggie version of *lazi jiding* (chicken with red peppers). This version is described on the menu as “Ode of Tribute”, with dried tofu taking the place of the chicken and cooked with black beans and red peppers (58 yuan). The tufu was nearly as tasty as the genuine meat version and the spicy peppers and black beans gave it an extra kick. Mushroom noodles was the only dish that was a little ordinary.

This restaurant sets out to be different and is entirely successful. A perfect example is the standard after-dinner complimentary melon. Instead

of the usual plate, this comes served in a wooden bowl brimming with smoke from dry ice placed in the dish around it. It looks ultra cool. Overall, the dodgy juice was the only sour note. **Where:** Inside Zhongguo Wenlianyuan, 10 Nongzhanguan Nanlu, Chaoyang **Open:** 11 am - 11 pm **Tel:** 6592 3627 **Average cost:** 60 yuan per person

Dusty old favorite
Gongdelin is perhaps



Gongdelin is showing its age.

Beijing’s most famous vegetarian restaurant. It also claims to be the first, having

been established in 1922, shortly after the Shanghai branch which became famous for celebrating the birth of Buddha every year by releasing caged animals and birds. These days, a visit to Gongdelin is indeed like a step back in time. It has the authentic feel of a state-run restaurant with bored, disinterested staff, litter on the floor and plates and bowls smudged with dirt.

Still, according to the menu, the food is “well cooked, by noted cooks.” This includes a veggie version of what was apparently Chairman Mao’s favorite dish, *hongshaorou*, or red braised pork, basically fatty pork in a thick sauce. Gongdelin’s tofu version of this wasn’t bad, but the chicken shreds dried in chili sauce (*mala jisi*) was atrocious. The whole experience was saved, however, by a rather excellent mushroom soup costing only 11 yuan. There are various other ambitious-sounding dishes available, such as turtle stewed in brown sauce and deep fried fresh fish. There’s a range of set meals on offer starting with four dishes plus one soup and a desert for 128 yuan and going up to 14 dishes plus one soup and desert for 498 yuan. They

Beautiful, delicious and nutritious – lotus pond crispy fragrant lily bud (32 yuan) at Pure Lotus

Photos by Tom Spearman

also serve alcohol and a seat by one of the large windows is an excellent place to watch life go by on Qianmen Dajie. **Where:** 158 Qianmen Dajie, Chongwen **Open:** 10:30 am - 8:30 pm **Tel:** 6511 2542 **Average cost:** 40 yuan per person

Wangfujing walk-in

If you’re in need of a shop selling take-away veggie



Quansuzhai is an unassuming haven of veggie-friendly snacks.

dishes, **Quansuzhai** might just fit the bill. Though it was set up shortly after the birth of new China, it’s a little hidden away these days vending vegetarian dishes tucked behind rows of packaged snacks, soft drinks and ice creams. Here you’ll find a range of items with tofu standing in for meat such as *su huotui* (cooked ham), *qiezhì niupai* (beef cooked in tomato sauce), *ziran yangrou* (lamb kebabs), *shao jikuai’r* (chicken in soy sauce) and *malarou* (spicy pork). **Where:** 213 Wangfujing Dajie **Open:** 8:30 am - 7 pm **Tel:** 6525 0741 **Average price per item:** 15 yuan

Business Service 商务服务



BEIJING PRE-MEDIA ADVERTISING CO.,LTD.

Advertising agent service
为国际、国内知名企业提供广告代理服务

Business service
为外商提供商务服务与交流合作

Corporation identity design service
为企业提供专业品牌形象设计服务

- CI / VI设计 · 宣传册 · 公司简介
- 产品说明书 · 产品包装 · POP广告
- 手提袋 · 海报 · 宣传单

HIGH QUALITY · BEST SERVICE

TEL:(86)010-88552079/80 13621080964
AD.E-mail:premedia@263.net

BUSINESS AGENT

PREO-(BEIJING) ADVERTISING CO.,LTD.

Professional media company

Our service including:

- ◆ Specialize in advertisement design;
- ◆ Advertisement promotion on network and media;
- ◆ Advertising report of company on newspaper;

Good service give you efficient feedback

Tel:68431638 Fax:88516568

Mobile:13001168744

E-mail:newyangd@hotmail.com

A Five-year-old Advertisement Company

- ◆ we're looking forward to foreign association for: Joint venture and technology cooperation;
- ◆ Trademark introduction;
- ◆ Marketing promotion and management;
- ◆ Arrangement of exhibition and meeting;

Welcome to contact with us
Tel:13911195219

Business Service

Advertisement for IT,OVERSEAS IMMIGRATION and so on.

北京工商事务咨询服务中心

BEIJING CONSULTING SERVICE CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS

业务范围: 承办国内外企业登记注册代理业务、外国企业常驻代表机构审批、
登记注册的代理业务。

The center handles applications for enterprise
and foreign enterprise permanent office in Beijing registration.

地址: 北京市海淀区三里河1号西苑饭店7号楼107-109室
RM107-109, NO.7, XIYUAN HOTEL, NO.1, SANLIHELU, HAIDIAN, BEIJING.
电话: 68313388 转 57107-57109 88371521 传真: 68342761 联系人: 周研、孙霞、任民



BeiJing PRE-MEDIA Advertising Company

A well-known professioned company

We provide following services:

- ★ Market strategy, promotion and design, Boutique agency
- ★ Advertisement Management of plane Media, TV advertisement
- ★ Buying Representative

Quality service obtain honour welcome to consultation

TEL:88552081 FAX:88552079

MOBILE:13601226884 E-mail:pieere@sina.com

北京京城出国留学服务中心

CANADA

- ◆ Get information of Canada university at present
- ◆ Recommend eight university in Canada

Hotline:010-66050344/66050391

RUSSIA

- ◆ U.S.A university standard, Chinese university fee
- ◆ Enough speciality
- ◆ no requirement of age
- ◆ BA and Master

Hotline:010-66050775

CHINA BEIJING SERVICE CENTER FOR STUDENTS EXCHANGE

Head Office Tel: 010—66020403 WebSite: www.cbjscc.com
Address: Level 6, Xidan Tushu Building, No.17 Xi Chang'an St. Beijing

Personal Classifieds

Accommodation

Two bedroom, well-decorated apartment for rent in Dongzhimenwai Dajie, near the Australian embassy and Pizza Hut. Home appliances, furnishing and broadband Internet access available. 2,500 yuan per month. Contact: soullivan@sina.com, 13321154253 (Mandarin speaking)

A NGO employee is looking for a roommate to share a two-bedroom apartment near West Gate of Chaoyang Park. Wooden floor, kitchen, bathroom; telephone available. Contact: Mr. Yang, SMS his mobile: 13671141928, 6538 1881, snakepit@sohu.com

Sales and Wanted

Brand new Sunpentown air freshener for sale. 700 yuan. Email: mchjy@sina.com.cn

Language Exchange

Samuel, 24-year old boy, involved in a Korean online games firm, wants to make friends with native English speakers, young guys better. Contact: 13120045875

Calm, an employee of a tax agency, wants to find a native English speaker as language exchange partner. Contact: mwb77@sina.com

Youlanda, a nice Chinese girl, 22, lives and works in Beijing, well educated, lovely and easy-going, is seeking a native English speaker for language exchange. Contact: icyrose911@163.com

Professional Help

Carol, a college graduate, kindhearted and smart girl, well speaking English, would like to find a full time or part time job on weekdays or weekends teaching foreign children Chinese or taking care of foreign children. Email: lunasea8262@sina.com, 13811719799

Disclaimer: Beijing Today does not take responsibility for verifying the authenticity of the personal classifieds and thus Beijing Today does not guarantee the accuracy, integrity or quality of the content. All content is the sole responsibility of the advertiser.

Exhibitions

Joint Show by Lu Bo and Deng Bangzhen

On show will be sculptures by Lu Bo and oil paintings by Deng Bangzhen (currently living in New Zealand), who will be on hand at the exhibition's opening on October 16.

Where: East Hall of Wan Fung Art Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng **When:** Saturday through October 24, 10 am – 6 pm (Tuesday-Sunday), 12 am – 6 pm (Monday) **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6523 3320



法国文化年
L'ANNEE
DE LA FRANCE
EN CHINE



French Culture Year in China



Exhibition on Life of Charles de Gaulle

This grand show highlights the splendid life of late French president Charles de Gaulle, who played an important role in forging friendship between China and France and led France to recognize the People's Republic of China in 1964. The exhibition uses high-tech audio and video methods to bring him alive for contemporary viewers. All pieces, including the General's car, army knife and other personal possessions, are real and on loan from French museums and the Charles de Gaulle Foundation.

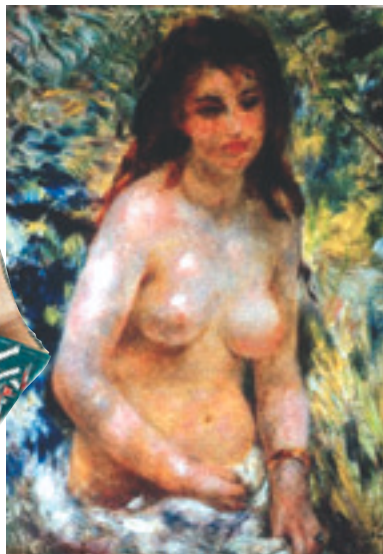
Where: Millennium Monument, 9 Fuxinglu, Haidian **When:** through November 30, daily 8:30 am –

5:30 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6851 3322
Design d'en France
An exhibition of more than 220 works of design including jewelry, clothing and home furnishings with a focus on French fashion and designs from the past century.

Where: China National Museum, east side of Tiananmen Square **When:** through November 7, daily 8:30 am – 4:30 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6512 8901
Master Works of French Impressionism
This fantastic exhibition includes 51 French impressionistic paintings by such masters as Monet, Manet and Pissarro, worth a total of 500 million euros.

Among the collection are Manet's *The Fifer*, Degas' *The Dancing Class*, Monet's *Rouen Cathedral* and Renoir's *Torso*. **Where:** China National

French Culture Year kicked off last Sunday with an opening ceremony in the Forbidden City. Thanks to concerted efforts by both the French and Chinese sides, this local series of events is sure to deepen ties already make closer by the Chinese Culture Year that concluded in France in July.



Gallery of Fine Arts, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng **When:** Through November 27, daily 9 am – 5 pm **Cost:** 20 yuan **Tel:** 6401 7076

Jean-Yves Thibaudet Piano Recital

Born in Lyons, France, Jean-Yves Thibaudet made his first public appearance at age seven and first performed with an orchestra at age nine. Today this former child prodigy is a young man in the prime of his career, with more than 30 recordings to his name and hundreds of highly acclaimed concert appearances. This concert program includes Claude Debussy's *Four Preludes from Book Two*, *Brouillards*, *La Puerto del Vino*, *Bruyeres* and *Feux d'Artifice* and Frederic Chopin's *Two Nocturnes*, *Opus Nine*, *Two Waltzes*.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, **When:** Tonight, 7:30pm **Admission:** 30-480 yuan **Tel:** 6559 8285
L'Orchestre de Paris

L'Orchestre de Paris (Paris Orchestra), conducted by Christoph Eschenbach, will perform Maurice Ravel's *Daphnis* and *Suite No. Two* and Maurice Ravel's *La Valse* and *Bolero*.

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimennan Dajie, Dongcheng **When:** October 28, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 200-1,000 yuan **Tel:** 6500 1188 ext. 5126

Movies



Heavenly Grassland

Directed by Sai Fu and Mai Lisi, starring Na Renhua, Ning Cai, Guersireng and Tumen. Somewhere in the Mongolian steppes, 40-something Sherghan returns home after a five year stretch in prison for fraud. With him is ten-year-old Huzi, a Han Chinese boy who has been mute since his parents abandoned him. This movie is a fascinating glimpse into a unique culture.

Where: Cherry Lane Movie Theater, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** Tonight and Saturday, 8 pm **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 13501251303



Ignorant Fairies

Directed by Ferzan Ozpetek, starring Margherita Buys, Stefano Accorsi, Serra Yilmaz and Erica Blanc. After Antonia's husband is killed by a car, she falls into a depression until she learns her husband had been cheating on her with a man... In Italian with English subtitles.

Where: Italian Embassy, 2 Sanlitun Dong'erjie, Chaoyang **When:** October 21, 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 2187



Center Stage (or Ruan Lingyu)

Directed by Stanley Kwan, starring Maggie Carina Lau, Tony Leung, Han Chin and Waise Lee. This is the story of Ruan Lingyu, the most celebrated Chinese movie actress of the 1930s, about the joys and success of her movie career and the pain and agony of her personal life. Her life ended suddenly and left the world with a warning against gossip and scandal.

Where: B2M bar, Dongheyan Xiaogu, Ditan Park South Gate **When:** Today through October 24, daily 10 am – 7 pm **When:** Sunday, 8 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6426 1091

Performances



Light up Thousands of Households (Wanjia Denghuo)

Under the direction of Lin Zhaoehua, the father of experimental theater in China, this comic celebration of the changes in day-to-day life of common citizens enlists the directorial contribution of Li Liuyi. The strong cast includes popular TV entertainer Song Dandan and Pu Cunxin and Yang Lixin.

Where: Capital Theater, 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng **When:** Today to October 24, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 80-280 yuan **Tel:** 6525 0978



Toilet (Cesuo)

Directed by Lin Zhaoehua, starring Liu Jinshan, Tao Hong and Zhao Liang. This new production by the National Theatre Company of China examines this most humble of utilities as a microcosm of change in Beijing.

Where: Tianqiao Theater, 30 Beiwailu, Xuanwu **When:** October 19-23, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 40-280 yuan **Tel:** 6303 0300

TV and Radio Highlights

HBO	
15 Friday	
Full Throttle	9 pm
16 Saturday	
About Schmidt	9 pm
17 Sunday	
Mission Impossible	8 pm
18 Monday	
Jumanji	9 pm
19 Tuesday	
Stuart Little 2	8:40 pm
20 Wednesday	
Excess Baggage	9 pm
21 Thursday	
Quick Change	10:40 pm
CCTV-9	
Monday – Friday	
Around China	6:30 am
Cultural Express	8:30 am
Nature and Science /	
Chinese Civilization	11:30 am
Cultural Express	2:30 pm
Nature and Science /	
Chinese Civilization	5:30 pm
Dialogue	7:30 pm
News Updates /	
Asia Today	8 pm
Sports Scene	11:15 pm
Saturday	
Travelogue	9:30 am
Center Stage	11:30 am
Sunday	
Sports Weekend	10 am
Documentary	10:30 am
This Week	12:30 am
China Radio International 91.5 FM	
Monday – Friday	
Easy FM Afternoon	2-7 pm
Fun in Beijing	5-5:30 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Saturday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Euro Hit 40	12:05-1 pm
Musique Sans Frontières	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Sunday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Jazz Beat	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language-exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to e-mail us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2518

By Zhang Jianzhong

广告热线: 13910730663

Santa Beauty Outpatient Service

Authoritative medical treatment and Korean-style beauty services by experts

Liposuction – lose weight without pain! 50% Off

Special offer – 35% off:

- Bust enhancement
- Removing bags under eyes
- Cosmetic surgery
- Face-lifts
- Jaw reshaping

Dentist service

- Tooth whitening
- Dental caps
- Tooth protection

Tel: 6467 5274, 6466 7655
Add: No.5, 1st floor, Building 79, Xibahe Dongli, Chaoyang

Jinbiwan Business Center (Bathing)

A wise choice for entertainment in the CBD

Daily Special:

- A. 50% off from 2 am to 5 pm! 24 yuan per person, including bath products, buffet, rest area
- B. 64 yuan for double room (2 am – 5 pm)
Massage: 58 yuan (foot), 88 yuan (body)

Add:

- Opposite Jili Building, Yabao Lu, Chaoyang
- Tel:** 8563 8988, 8563 8288

99 Massage Center

Trial Offer: 50% Off

House call 24hrs 6501 0799

Aromatic Oil Massage (RMB 200 – 580), Body/Foot Massage (RMB100). Service at your home is also available. Add: (South of Kerry Centre) Rm 703, e-Tower, 12 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang (光华路丙12号数码01大厦703室, 嘉里中心南侧)

Recharge at Generator

By Hester Xu

My husband and I once lived in a small city in northwest England. While he was studying hard, I travelled in all directions. Driving my beloved Honda Civic, I managed to cross the Highlands of Scotland, sped along Loch Ness and reached the small town of Inverness in the north of Scotland. In the burning heat of summer, I found myself sweeping across England from north to south on my way to the largest city in south England, Southampton. Heading east and west, I went to York and Chester to appreciate the Roman era architecture. Many a time I visited the Lake District in order to enjoy fantastic sceneries of different seasons. The elegant beauty of Wales lingers in my memory, the distinctive styles of the university cities of Cambridge and Oxford touched my heart. And yet, none of these compares to the sight of London, its old and new districts, bustling roads and quiet streets, everything about it fascinates me and continues to draw me back.

Anyone who is lucky enough to have visited London agrees that its hotels are generally expensive. For Chinese students and backpackers, the cost of accommodation seems disproportionately high. One alternative is to stay in a youth hostel, which offer basic, inexpensive accommodation, and the possibility of some interesting experiences.

I went to London again last winter and spent one week at a large youth hostel called Generator, conveniently located near Euston railway station. I weaved my way through the streets and soon found myself walking into a blind alley. Just as I was wondering if I could ever find the place, a giant old block of flats suddenly came into view. After mounting a flight of stairs, I edged through the small front door and was instantly amazed by the long queue lining up before the reception desk. On finding they

were waiting for a vacant bed, I couldn't help but congratulate myself on having made booking more than a week before. January is a busy season for tourism in London, and it is extremely hard to find a suitable hotel. Those that aren't too expensive, are invariably fully booked, or else too far from the city center to be considered convenient. Generator charges £38 (560 yuan) per night and claims to be the 'largest and funkiest' youth hostel chain in both Britain and Germany.

Inside, I seemed to find myself in the United Nations, with people speaking different languages, of various skin colors and wearing clothes of many styles in heterogeneous groups bustling in and out. I carried my weighty suitcase to the luggage room as soon as I finished checking in. Most rooms are fitted with two or more bunk beds, leaving no space for luggage and guests come and go at a rapid rate, so it is safer to keep your bulky belongings in a luggage room. The luggage room key is kept at reception, you only need to find the receptionist to get your belongings. I gasped as I opened the luggage room door, suitcases, bags and backpacks were stacked to the ceiling on iron racks, there was barely room left to set foot inside. With difficulty I tiptoed in, did a little reshuffling, and managed to push my suitcase into a safer corner.

Breakfast is free, and you can have anything you want, so long as you want continental breakfast. There's a plentiful supply of bread, jam, butter, cereal, milk, coffee, tea and juice. Looking around the restaurant, I saw three students slipping whole stacks of bread into their own bags, then each grabbed a handful of jam packets and casually sauntered out of the room, an act that raised no eyebrows among the other guests. The big restaurant has the suggestive name



Reception

Fuel Stop and is permeated with the enticing smell of various dishes. With several big TV sets hanging from the ceiling, it also serves as a rest lounge, and there are always people sitting there from morning to evening.

Besides the usual amenities such as a public kitchen for guests to do their own cooking, a laundry room, an entertainment room, a reading room and an In-

ternet bar, there is also a large bar in the hotel, which could prove a problem for light sleepers, as the hallway resounded with the clamour of people returning to their rooms from the bar until late. The first night I arrived, I couldn't get to sleep until two or three am when the noise gradually faded. Nevertheless the hotel remains very quite in the morning, when most



Restaurant

Photos by Zhang Yan

guests are still sound asleep.

The public bathroom is partitioned into narrow compartments by wooden boards, and some of the shower nozzles are broken, spraying only cold water. The first morning, I awoke in a daze, went to the bathroom and took a cold shower. Afterwards I asked a staff member if there was a time limit on the hot water supply. "No," he responded, "it's available 24

hours!" After I told him I had taken a cold shower in the coldest month of January, he smiled and told me that hot water is available 24 hours, except in those stalls with broken shower nozzles!

People from all over the world visit London, get "recharged" at the Generator and continue their travels in all directions. You won't find any luxury there, but you'll meet some interesting people.

Easy Flight to Paris

By Hester Xu

When my husband, who is studying in England, and I planned a vacation in Paris with his classmate and wife, none of us wanted to take EasyJet. However a delayed visa dashed our hopes of a "luxury flight" on Air France.

EasyJet may not be familiar to most Chinese, but it is a household name in Britain. Set up by Greek businessman Stelios Haji-Ioannou, it is the second largest

budget airline in Europe, behind Ireland's Ryanair, with routes covering large and medium sized cities in Britain and major cities on the European continent.

A return ticket to Paris costs only 40 pounds (590 yuan). One of the company's cost cutting measures is to replace regular ticketing procedures with online booking, so we booked our flight from its official website and printed out the confirmation email. Reading through the two page "e-



Photos by Zhang Yan

ticket," we four expectant passengers found the departure time: 7:04.5.

Another cost-cutting measure the company employs is to base its fleet in small, none-hub air-

ports. In the north-west, its home base is Liverpool's John Lennon Airport. To avoid being late for boarding, we set out at 1 o'clock in the afternoon to catch the train for Liverpool. Although the north is known for cool weather in July, last summer was unseasonably hot, and we sat swaying in the steaming hot carriage for four hours. From Liverpool station we took a shuttle bus directly to the airport, arriving a few minutes past five. Looking at the long queues of passengers in the waiting hall, we felt relieved that everything had gone according to plan. Our flight wasn't listed on the departure board, which we took as a sign that we had arrived too early, and we all agreed to treat ourselves too a good meal before takeoff.

Yet another cost cutting measure of this budget airline is not providing free food and drink in flight. We figured that rather



EasyJet cabin crew

than starve on the long flight to Paris, we had better fill our stomach at the airport so as to fully enjoy the night view after arriving in Paris. Having bought loads of food at Burger King, we began to munch eagerly and discuss our itinerary in Paris.

Suddenly, we heard an announcement that our flight was departing in twenty minutes. We looked at each other, four mouths frozen mid-burger-bite. We tore out the ticket email, read through the closely printed words and were stunned by what we saw, clearly it was printed Departure Time: 7:15 pm. We had mistaken the confirmation number for departure time!

We grabbed our luggage in panic, raced down the stairs, and dashed to the check-in counter, only to find it had already closed for some time. EasyJet maintains the strict rule that passengers MUST check in 40 minutes before boarding, as compared to the 20-minute norm, no boarding is allowed otherwise! Being aware of this, we knew that boarding our flight was out of the question. And since it was the last one of the day, we had no choice but to change for the first one the next day and stay overnight in Liverpool.

We set to work immediately.

One night had to be cancelled from the hotel in Paris we booked, otherwise our loss would be even bigger, in the meantime we needed to find an affordable and conveniently located hotel in Liverpool. With some difficulty, we managed to get all this arranged.

At 6 am the next morning, we sped towards the airport in a taxi booked the night before, determined not to take any chances this time. We dashed to the check-in counter, dragging our luggage along the way. The aircraft cabin was quite full when we boarded, and we couldn't help but be surprised at EasyJet's popularity. Looking through the window at the other planes with EasyJet.com sprayed across their fuselage, we were finally able to breath a sigh of relief.

The inside of the cabin was plain. The flight attendants were dressed quite casually compared to those of other airlines, and the only thing freely available were newspapers. When we finally arrived at Charles De Gaul Airport in Paris, the flight attendants began to herd passengers out of the cabin as soon as the doors opened, as the plane was due to leave again in just 30 minutes.

Returning to England, we found many passengers scurrying towards the check-in counter with their heavy luggage, panting on the way, and I made up my mind that I would never again take EasyJet. But since weighing up the low ticket price against the experience of visiting Paris, I am tempted to take fly EasyJet again for my next European trip.



秋高气爽渡金秋，雾灵山庄采摘忙

——深深红叶情，累累果实香

粼粼碧波，轻轻的微风，红红的枫叶，累累的果实，掩映其中的雾灵山庄更显得神秘而美丽，走过春的萌芽，踏过夏的洗礼，到雾灵山庄体验落叶归根的静美，在这里，满山遍野的红叶，为雄伟的雾灵山庄披了一件火红色的外衣，燃烧大地入冬前最后的激情，那挂满树梢的果实，散发着诱人的香味，真正甘甜，绿色纯正。

亲爱的朋友，您还犹豫什么？带上您的相机，在秋高气爽的金秋，来雾灵山庄记录红叶给予的深情，体味绿色果品的纯香。



30人以上团队送烤羊一只或精美礼品一份
¥188—258元/人 (2正1早，住宿1晚，三项娱乐)

电话: 81022889 81022489 81022817 网址: www.wlsz.net